Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-002
Wednesday
4 January 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-002 *4 January 1989*

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LD0401143689 [Editorial Report]

Downing of Libyan Planes

In the first monitored Libyan reaction to the downing of two Libyan aircraft by U.S. Navy jets on 4 January, a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement broadcast by Tripoli radio claimed that U.S. aircraft carried out a "premeditated attack" on two Libyan reconnaissance planes carrying out a "routine" patrol over international waters.

The statement acknowledged that both Libyan planes were shot down.

Afghanistan

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov told journalists in Islamabad that he does not know if the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will be completed by 15 February as the commitment to withdraw will "depend on developments," AFP reported.

Vorontsov had earlier held two rounds of talks with Afghan mujahidin leaders in Iran, who emphasized that the current regime in Kabul "must leave the scene due to the crimes it has committed," Tehran television reported.

A TASS report on Vorontsov's talks with Afghan and Iranian officials in Tehran noted that he called for a cease-fire and the convening of a peace conference at which all Afghan political parties and groups should be represented.

For the mujahidin, Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, chairman of the seven-party alliance, announced that his agenda in the upcoming talks with Vorontsov will include a demand for a complete Soviet withdrawal and the removal of the Najibullah government, AFP reported.

Mojadeddi also said he will raise the mujahidin's proposal to establish a consultative council (shura) to decide the composition of a new government. He said the shura will consist of over 500 members representing the mujahidin, clergy, and other walks of life, according to a related IRNA report.

Afghan parties based in Iran have been invited to Pakistan to coordinate views with the seven-party alliance, he added. A delegation of mujahidin leaders in Iran subsequently flew to Islamabad, the agency noted.

On the military situation, Kabul radio broadcast an interview with the commander of the city garrison in which he maintained that the Najibullah government has "powerful, stable, and formidable" armed forces, backed by a "highly reliable" reserve of "special guard" units.

Soviet-Iranian Relations

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev received the Iranian delegation headed by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli in the Kremlin 4 January, Tehran radio reported, noting that Amoli gave Gorbachev a message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The Tel Aviv paper THE NATION claimed that Khomeyni is offering Gorbachev a "secret diplomatic deal" that would entail close cooperation between the two countries in Afghanistan and the Gulf.

Citing a "top Iranian Government source," the paper said Iran is proposing that the Soviets allow Shi'ite forces to take over the government in Kabul, while permitting "remnants" of the current regime to hold office.

Iran also seeks a "strategic understanding" with the USSR over the Gulf as well as the supply of advanced weapons to the Iranian Army, the report added.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo 3 January and was received by the Egyptian foreign minister, MENA reported. 'Arafat had earlier met with Saudi King Fahd before leaving Saudi Arabia, according to SPA. Meanwhile, a PLO official cited by Dubayy's AL-BAYAN warned that Israel's Mosad is planning to assassinate 'Arafat.

On the U.S. request for information from the PLO that might assist the investigation into the Pan Am airliner explosion, Fatah official Khalid al-Hasan confirmed that the PLO is willing to help but stressed that this does not mean it has information that could trace the culprits, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

In Damascus, Fatah "uprising" leader Abu Musa viewed the PLO offer to help as further evidence that 'Arafat is "collaborating closely" with the CIA, AFP noted.

Israel

In statements carried by Jerusalem television, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens condemned moves to talk with the PLO but stressed that Israel will give new momentum to the peace process in 1989. He warned that the current readiness to talk to the PLO will induce other terrorist organizations to step up their activities, adding that peace will grow farther away as the PLO's strength and status grows.

Arens described the PLO as "racist, reactionary, and fascist" and he viewed as "terrorism" a recent warning by 'Arafat that Palestinians who call for an end to the intifadah will expose themselves to "bullets" from their own side.

All the coalition parties approved a Knesset resolution which reaffirmed Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO but affirmed its willingness to talk to Palestinian leaders who recognize Israel and renounce terror, the television noted. The resolution also said Israel will make efforts to establish "full autonomy" in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that the southern suburb of Beirut was calm the evening of 3 January following further clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah earlier in the day. Syrian forces subsequently deployed in parts of the suburb, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted. Fighting between Amal and Hizballah continued in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area of southern Lebanon 4 January, the radio said.

Egypt

Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir, a defendant in the trial of the Egypt's Revolution organization, was arrested on his arrival in Egypt but was released on bail after appearing before the State Higher Emergency Security Court, MENA reported. Shawqi is the nephew of late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, whose son Khalid is wanted in connection with the Egypt's Revolution case.

Morocco-Polisario Talks

Saharan sources cited by APS confirmed that a Polisario delegation arrived in Marrakesh 3 January for talks with Morocco's King Hassan II. The delegation is composed of three members of Polisario's Executive Committee: Mahfoud Ali Beida, Bechir Mustapha Sayyed, and Ibrahim Ghali.

Although "unofficial" sources in Morocco reported the Polisario delegation's arrival, Moroccan officials said they had "no knowledge" of any such visit, AFP noted.

Palestinian Affairs

Muragha Accuses 'Arafat of Collaboration With CIA

NC0301210489 Paris AFP in English 2054 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, Jan 3 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is a collaborator with the U.S. intelligence service, the CIA, against the interests of the Arab world, pro-Syrian Palestinian leader Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] charged here Tuesday.

Reacting to reports that Mr. 'Arafat has offered to help find those responsible for the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland, the Fatah Provisional Command chief accused the Palestine Liberation Organization leader of "collaborating closely and since a long time" with the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Arafat's proposal to cooperate with security services that are hostile to our people shows the dangerous role of this defeatist line," Col. Abu Musa said in a communique.

The colonel, whose organisation broke off from Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah group in 1983, has condemned and strongly denied responsibility for the mid-air bombing last month of the American airliner that cost 270 lives. [passage omitted]

Al-Hasan Denies 'Arafat Has Clues to Pan Am Crash

JN0401064089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Much has recently been reported about the PLO's cooperation with the United States to unmask those responsible for blowing up the U.S. Boeing. The U.S. officials went so far as to say that the PLO possesses important information which will help unveil the culprits.

All this prompted, and even forced the PLO to explain a few points. This clarification was made by Khalid al-Hasan, one of Yasir 'Arafat's close advisers.

Speaking to British independent television, Khalid al-Hasan first expressed his apprehension that the United States might have to wait a long time for the PLO to unveil the culprits.

He added that the PLO is ready to help but this does not mean that Yasir 'Arafat—as the FBI director stressed—has important information that might lead to the culprits, nor does it mean that the PLO has a dossier from which it can give the Americans the name of the person reponsible for the Boeing blast or explain the way the operation was carried out.

Asked whether a Palestinian faction, particularly the Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group, might have been responsible for the explosion, Khalid al-Hasan said he doubts that Abu Nidal could have blown up the airliner because the victims were Americans and Abu Nidal fights against the Israelis and against the Palestinians [as heard].

Khalid al-Hasan did not rule out that a certain state or intelligence service might have been responsible for the incident in view of the advanced technology used to blow up the Boeing.

'Arafat Reportedly Investigating Pan Am Explosion

NC0401070189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] REUTER has cited a PLO official as saying that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's investigations into the explosion of the U.S. airliner had actually begun prior to Washington's announcement that it will welcome any information about the incident.

The PLO official pointed out that 'Arafat strongly wishes to bring the perpetrators to justice and that last week he sent memorandums to PLO offices all over the world to supply him with information on the issue.

Palestinian Envoy on Resumption of U.S. Talks

NC3112141188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Dec (MENA)—Rafiq al-Natshah, Palestine's ambassador in Riyadh, has announced that the second U.S.-Palestinian meeting will be held on 20 January. Prospects for an international conference for peace in the Middle East will be discussed at the meeting, he said.

In statements to the MENA correspondent in Riyadh, he asserted that the Palestinian uprising will not cease until the Israeli forces have withdrawn from the occupied Palestinian territories.

He emphasized that Palestinian coordination with the Arab governments represents a firm strategy for the Palestinian revolution, noting Egypt's role in this respect and President Husni Mubarak's stand on the Palestinian cause, as well as Jordan's position in view of the distinguished ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Palestine's ambassador in Riyadh condemned all acts of terrorism, foremost among which is organized Israeli terrorism against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the attempts to distort the image of the uprising and the legitimate Palestinian struggle.

He declared that the false charges against the Palestinian people no longer fool today's world, because the world has understood all the facts about the Palestinian people and these malicious propaganda campaigns will not have any effect.

Al-Natshah denied reports of the formation of a special popular army, noting that such a measure is viewed as discrimination among the Palestinian people, who as a whole are considered to be an army of the Palestinian people.

He announced that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will hoist Palestine's flag at its embassy in Riyadh tomorrow morning, Sunday, and that he will deliver a speech on the evening of the same day in a ceremony which will be attended by Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh.

PLO Official Warned of Possible Mosad Attacks

JN0301155689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
1 Jan 89 pp 1, 18

[Text] Beirut—AL-BAYAN—High-ranking Palestinian figures have received warnings from the Tunisian security authorities on possible attacks by elements of the Israeli Mosad.

A high-ranking Palestinian official told AL-BAYAN that the Tunisian warning has not come out of a vacuum and expressed the belief that information on plans to assassinate Palestinian figures has been made available to more than one Arab state, including Tunisia, by friendly European states.

The high-ranking Palestinian official, who asked to remain anonymous, added that the Palestinian leaders have taken the warning seriously despite the stringent security precautions taken by the Tunisian security authorities. He went on to say that this presupposes the absence of most leaders in a single state except when extremely necessary.

It is worth noting that a number of Palestinian officials earlier disclosed information about Israeli Mosad plans to assassinate a number of Palestinian figures. In addition, the names of senior Israeli intelligence officers who have been assigned to formulate and implement these plans were also revealed.

It is also worth recalling that a number of Palestinian leaders who are supposed to maintain a semipermanent presence in the Tunisian capital, as their official headquarters are located there, have been in other capitals.

For instance, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, left Tunis on 18 November and Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, has been shuttling between a number of East European and Arab capitals.

Furthermore, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and 'Abdullah Hurani are the only PLO Executive Committee members currently in Tunis.

Official on Attempts to Assassinate PLO Leaders

JN0301161089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
2 Jan 89 p 13

[Excerpt] Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO Security Officer, has said that Yasir 'Arafat is now targeted by the Israeli Mosad, especially after the political changes in the region and the continuation of the Palestinian uprising.

He told AL-BAYAN that the struggle with the Zionist enemy is a long one and that one of Israel's aims is to track down and assassinate Palestinian leaders. There have been constant repeated attempts, he said, with Israel managing in the end to assassinate martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Israel is now painstakingly endeavoring to carry out a similar act of assassination against Yasir 'Arafat, he added. We recently announced the discovery of an attempt on the life of 'Arafat. Many other undeclared operations aimed at liquidating some PLO leaders have also been foiled.

'Abd al-Hamid said that the Israeli organs are currently focusing on brother 'Arafat, believing that his death would dramatically weaken the revolution.

These acts, he said, do not terrify our leaders, as we believe in fate. However, we have the necessary precautions to secure the safety of the Palestinian leaders.

It is clear that by such operations, he said, Israel aims at dragging the PLO to battles outside the occupied territories, so that Europe or the United States may be the scene of operations exchanged between us. However, our decision to fight the enemy only within the occupied territories will continue. Israel's success in dragging the PLO to outside operations would be detrimental to our cause, especially with world public opinion being supportive of the Palestinian cause.

'Abd al-Hamid pointed out that regardless of the precautions taken by the PLO there will be martyrs, with every martyr giving great impetus to our people's struggle for the regaining of their legitimate rights.

He expressed the belief that Israel's resort to this method reflects its failure and incompetence. Precautions exist and are being practiced, he said, but we should take into consideration that we live outside our country.

In fact, he went on to say, the Tunisian Government exerts efforts for which we are grateful to secure the necessary protection for the Palestinian leaders. [passage omitted]

Joint Meeting To Declare 'Arafat 'President'

JN0301194689 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
2 Jan 89 p 15

[By 'Amid al-Shanti]

[Text] High-level Palestinian sources have informed AL-QABAS that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be the first president of the State of Palestine.

The sources said that a joint meeting of the PLO Central Council, the PLO Executive Committee, and the PNC Presidium will be held this month to declare Yasir 'Arafat the president of the State of Palestine.

The sources pointed out that this agreement was reached during the meetings of the recent PLO Executive Committee session in Baghdad last month with the aim of filling a gap in protocol affairs, particularly with regard to the Palestinian ambassadors in world states following the recognition of the proclamation of the Palestinian state on 15 November last year.

The sources added that messages and credentials must be addressed from a head of state to a head of state, not to mention the fact that the declaration of a state requires that a president of that state be named.

On the formation of a Palestinian government, the sources said that in light of the PLO Executive Committee meetings recently held in Baghdad, the issue of discussing that topic was postponed until the reasons that dictate that such a government be formed in accordance with the Algiers PNC resolutions surface.

They added that the PNC authorized the PLO Executive Committee to announce the formation of this government, provided the PLO Central Council elects that government.

Hurani Denies PLO Approval of Elections, Talks

JN0401103089 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
1 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

['Abd al-Jabbar al-Sharif dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A senior Palestinian official has categorically denied world new agencies' reports that Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories had visited Tunis and returned with PLO approval for a number of notables from the occupied territories, who are close to the PLO, to run for possible election with the aim of holding Palestinian-Zionist talks to be preceded by stopping the popular uprising.

In an exclusive statement to AL-THAWRAH, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani recalled the decision made by the PLO Executive Committee during its recent meeting regarding the Zionist enemy government's plan to implement an autonomy plan through conducting elections in the occupied territories.

He said that this decision has clearly rejected this plan which it described as an attempt to circumvent the Palestinian peace plan which had gained worldwide support.

He urged world public opinion not to be deceived by this false Zionist show of peace.

The Palestinian official stressed the need to mobilize and enlighten the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories. He said that these masses stand against the Zionist plan.

Hurani strongly denied reports that the PLO is dealing with or discussing this issue out of a desire to accept this plan.

Regarding the possibility of holding a second Palestinian-U.S. meeting during the last days of the current U.S. Administration's era, the Palestinian official said that the possibility exists for such a meeting.

However, he added that no discussion had taken place to set a date for this meeting and that neither side had requested the holding of this dialogue. He said that little is expected from such a meeting since President Ronald Reagan's administration is in its last days.

Hurani also denied rumors of a U.S. proposal to the PLO to hold direct negotiations between the Zionists and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. He stressed that such a proposal was not discussed during the dialogue that was held with the Americans in Tunis and that the PLO has no intention to discuss this issue.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo From Saudi Arabia

NC0401063089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Cairo tonight. Welcoming him upon his arrival were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs; Sa'id Kamal, PNC member; and Zuhdi al-Qudrah, director of the PLO office in Cairo.

Upon his arrival at Cairo airport, 'Arafat expressed his delight at being in Cairo and at the prospect of meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He said that Cairo is the Arab capital and that he is always pleased to visit it, particularly at this critical juncture in the history of the Palestinian issue and the Arab people.

'Arafat praised the efforts which President Mubarak is exerting to resolve the Palestinian issue, noting in particular Mubarak's efforts to bring the United States to open talks with the PLO. 'Arafat said: I am always happy to meet with President Mubarak and listen to his advice.

Meanwhile, Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions, who also met 'Arafat at the airport, said that the Palestinian leader will attend ceremonies which will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, at the headquarters of the Syndicate of Textile Workers.

These ceremonies will mark the 24th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and the 1st anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, as well as express support for the newly proclaimed Palestinian state.

Al-Baz on Peace, U.S.-PLO Talks, Europe's Role

NC0301205389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary and at the Foreign Ministry director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has emphasized that the current year will see the completion and consolidation of the accomplishments of Egyptian diplomacy at the Arab and international levels to bring about peace in the region. He expressed the hope that agreement will be reached this year on the convocation of an international peace conference.

At a meeting of the NDP's Arab Affairs Committee this evening, Dr al-Baz said he hopes that Iraq and Iran will reach agreement on the differences between them during the next 3 months, especially because the two countries have their own political and economic circumstances which enhance their eagerness for peace.

He noted that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will lead to positive results that will serve the peace efforts in the region. Al-Baz underlined the importance of the European role in enhancing the peace efforts, disclosing that the coming months will witness an active European role in this respect.

On Domestic, Foreign Policies

NC0401100489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has emphasized that the Arab position suffered an impairment in the absence of Egypt. He added that the Arab presence cannot achieve its defined objectives without a degree of Arab solidarity at the present stage, and noted that Egypt's policies are formulated to serve the interests of the Arab homeland.

Speaking at a meeting of the NDP Arab Affairs Committee last night, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt is well prepared to face the future and has the nationalist insight and aims that give it a privileged regional stature.

He added: We are searching for a new concept of Arab solidarity and coordination to serve pan-Arab interests and prove increasingly capable of bringing about coordination, but we are moving gradually and following steps similar to those pursued by the EEC.

He stated that the establishment of Arab regional groupings represents a step on the road to unity, adding that inter-Arab cooperation must be intensified if coordination is to be achieved and the barriers removed. He pointed out that once these groupings prove successful they will spread to include other Arab areas.

He stressed, however, that these groups do not constitute barriers among the Arab states. They constitute a positive phenomenon and a source of power to all the Arabs in the future, he said.

Regarding domestic policies and their impact on foreign policy, Dr al-Baz pointed out that the government is trying to maintain a positive domestic policy, since this reflects on foreign policy. He emphasized that only through building a domestically strong country will Egypt be able to exercise leverage on the Arab, African, European, and international levels.

He said that action spurred by economic interests is the target. This is what Europe has done, and this is where we could find the road and the future of the Arab world,

he stated. He stressed that President Husni Mubarak is striving to serve Egypt's interests, and his work is a reflection of the desires of the Egyptian people.

He noted that Egypt's foreign policy is part of the Egyptian political line, because politics is a series of swift and successive steps, taken in the hope that these steps will be further promoted [sentence as received].

On the Palestinian uprising, Dr al-Baz emphasized Israel's realization that stepping up the acts of violence against the uprising will increase the acts of counterviolence. He pointed out that the Palestinian people possess enough capabilities to confront this violence valiantly. He noted that Israel's acts of suppression against the uprising had failed to achieve a setback or render the uprising impotent. Rather, Dr al-Baz added, these Israeli acts have strengthened Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territories.

Asked about Israel's plan to establish autonomous rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dr al-Baz noted that Egypt and Jordan will oppose any agreement with Israel on this. Egypt and Jordan believe that the Palestinian people are entitled to negotiate for the sake of their just legitimate rights and set up a state of their own.

On Egyptian-Syrian relations, Dr al-Baz affirmed that there have been no contacts with any Syrian official in recent years except for the meeting which took place between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad during the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait.

Dr al-Baz expressed the conviction that this year will witness several political events, foremost among which is the completion of the peace process in the Gulf and the conclusion of an agreement to resolve the dispute between Iraq and Iran.

Dr al-Baz expects that during 1989 Europe will play an active role in the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that the peace process has begun to crystallize in the international diplomatic arena.

'Abd al-Majid on Issues, Mubarak's Israel Trip

NC0401084889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that in 1988 there were considerable achievements in Egyptian foreign policy, which is based on the three pillars of peace, stability, and development.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said these achievements had been possible thanks to President Mubarak's wise and mature directives, which had constituted an important factor in what had been accomplished, both on the Arab and international level. Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt is eager to preserve and develop these achievements during the current year.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid was speaking at a cultural symposium organized by the Cairo NDP secretariat last night. The symposium was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Ahmad Jamal al-Din, Cairo NDP secretary, and political and executive key figures of the Cairo secretariat.

In his remarks, 'Abd al-Majid touched on Egyptian-Arab relations. He said Egypt has never been detached from the Arab body, because it is part of this body. He noted that Egypt's stands on pan-Arab issues are firm and clear and remain unchanged. He pointed out that he harbors cautious optimism over the Arab future, in view of the Arab homeland's strong but as yet unutilized potentials.

In response to a question regarding Egypt's return to the Arab League, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: We are not in a hurry.

On the Palestinian uprising, Dr 'Abd al-Majid declared that this uprising, which started in December 1987, has altered the equation in the Middle East as much as the October war did in 1973. He noted, however, that the uprising must be developed politically, since politics is as important as war, if not more effective.

He added that the major developments in the Palestinian issue—starting with the PNC meeting in mid-November in Algiers, the development of the Palestinian issue from a pan-Arab matter into an international issue, and the vote at the UN General Assembly by the European countries, including the UK and the Netherlands for the first time, in favor of an international peace conference—must be fully utilized and promoted in the best interests of the cause.

The foreign minister stated that the increasing number of voices of reason inside Israel that are calling for a peaceful settlement must be encouraged. He expressed his regret at the Israeli leaders' rejection of an international conference and their description of the PLO as terrorist. He noted that as a result the Government of Israel is standing alone against the world's desire for a just peace.

On the question of a visit to Israel by President Husni Mubarak, as reported in his excellency's interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA', Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the president's statement must be taken in full, since he explained that this visit would be possible "if it were to give momentum to peace."

With respect to the situation in Sudan, the foreign minister expressed Egypt's hope that Sudan will be able to overcome its current crisis, noting that Egypt's ties to Sudan are eternal. He said Egypt is always eager to see stability in Sudan and hopes the problem of the South will be solved by peaceful means.

Asked why the PDRY has not yet appointed an ambassador to Egypt, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the PDRY ambassador will arrive in Cairo next week.

'Abd al-Nasir's Nephew Released on Bail

NC0301144189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—The State Higher Emergency Security Court resumed its sessions today in the trial of the 20 defendants in the Egypt's Revolution Organization case. In a session which lasted more than 4 hours, the court listened to a number of defense arguments and the responses of the prosecutors.

The court then adjourned until 24 January, when the verdicts pertaining to these arguments will be issued.

The court decided to release defendant Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir [nephew of late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir] on a 500-pound bail but to keep the other defendants in the case in custody. Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir had been arrested yesterday [as received].

Libya

U.S. Planes Shoot Down 2 Aircraft 4 Jan

LD0401135389 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement today which says:

At 1103 [1003 GMT] this morning, Wednesday 4 January, while two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft were carrying out a routine reconnaissance patrol over international waters, U.S. aircraft flying from the U.S. aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy carried out a premeditated attack on them and shot them down over international waters.

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement

LD0401152289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1457 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA saying:

In spite of the increase in official U.S. terrorism, which is backed by brute force, and in spite of the threats, the revolutionaries of Great Libya will not bow their heads and will not abandon their principles and the objectives of their eternal motherland of unity, liberation, and the building of progress.

They will meet challenge with challenge. History is a witness to the defeat of the empires of expansion and tyranny and the triumph of revolutionaries and the will of peoples, no matter how small these are.

If the United States has prevailed because it is a superpower in the air and the sea, it will inevitably be defeated on land. We, as well as the fish, are awaiting them.

UN Meeting Sought

LD0401143589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1426 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has ordered the permanent representative of the Libyan Jamahiriyah at the UN to lodge an urgent complaint to the United Nations Security Council with regard to the aggression carried out by the United States against two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft this morning, and to call on the United Nations Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to discuss this aggression.

TANJUG: Al-Qadhdhafi Asked for Soviet Help

LD0401154489 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1441 GMT 4 Jan 89

["Pool" item]

[Excerpt] Tripoli, January 4 (TANJUG)—[Passage omitted] Independent sources in Tripoli claim that the Libyan command, on learning of the new movements of the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean, has ordered the evacuation of all Air Force planes deep into the Sahara. The same scheme had been put into effect before the April 1986 American attack on the Jamahiriyah.

It has also been learned that the military command has called up groups of new conscripts.

According to information from reliable sources, upon learning about the U.S. moves in the Mediterranean, the Libyan leader asked Moscow to send part of its Mediterranean fleet into the area of the forthcoming U.S. manoeuvers.

It is believed in Tripoli that a direct U.S.-Libyan confrontation, which could be used as a pretext for a new American (and possibly also Israeli) attack on vital targets in Libya, could be avoided in this manner.

Soviet Friendship Body Condemns U.S. 'Threats'

LD0401125889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow 4 Jan (JANA)— The Soviet-Libyan Arab Friendship Committee has condemned the Reagan Administration's threats to hit one of the civic achievements accomplished on the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah. The Soviet-Libyan Arab Friendship Committee has reiterated its solidarity and support for the Libyan Arab people's courageous confrontation against all imperialist schemes.

Plant Construction Reportedly Organized by Iraqi

AU0401102289 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 4 Jan 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Wirepullers for Chemical Plant in London"]

[Text] London/Bonn—DIE WELT has obtained new information about the background on the building of a chemical plant in Libya. According to this information, the construction of this plant has been organized from London by an Iraqi named Ihsan Barbouti [spelling of name as published]. He is the chief of the London-based IBI (Ihsan Barbouti International) company. The Iraqi reportedly also has a Jordanian passport.

So far, owing in particular to statements from Washington, one had the impression that the German Imhausen company was the chief supplier of the plant in Libya. What speaks against this version is the additional information that, according to reliable information, the chemical plant in Libya has not yet started production, as well as the fact that, on the other hand, the plant was built on the basis of supplies by companies from at least six industrial countries.

In this connection, an engineering plant in Tokyo, companies in South Korea and Austria, a firm in Vogtland, GDR, and a company in Switzerland have been mentioned. The financial transactions related to the building of the chemical plant have reportedly been handled through Switzerland. In addition, firms from the FRG have been mentioned.

It is not known to what extent the individual suppliers knew the real purpose of the plant in Libya. Nor is it clear whether the U.S. Administration informed the governments of the countries mentioned as well as the Federal Government about the suspicious facts. We have not been able to obtain official information in this respect in Bonn, London, or Washington.

Asked why the United States has rejected the offer made by Libyan chief of state Al-Qadhdhafi to send an international experts' commission to inspect the plant, experts say that such a measure would not for the time being throw any light on actual production at a later time. Such a one-time-only inspection would give Al-Qadhdhafi the advantage of eventually using the plant at will "with international blessing."

It is to be expected that the international chemical weapons conference that is scheduled to begin in Paris on 7 January will deal with this problem in general and with the affair in Libya in particular. The Foreign Ministry in Bonn refused to confirm that the Federal Government would take the initiative in this matter.

At the end of such deliberations, agreement should be reached that chemical plants are subject to verification, not only in individual cases but permanently. Only on that basis would a chemical weapons agreement make sense.

German Company Denies Involvement in Factory

LD0401115089 Hamburg DPA in German 1101 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Lahr (DPA)—The chemical enterprise Imhausen-Chemie GMBH has once again emphatically denied all suggestions that it had a part in the construction of an alleged chemical weapons factory in Libya.

"Neither Imhausen-Chemie nor any other enterprise in our group of firms has a direct or indirect part of any kind in the project to build a factory in Libya", said a statement issued on Wednesday by the company, which is based in Lahr in the Ortenau District of the Black Forest.

The company also said that it had "concluded contracts in connection with the chemical factory in Al-Rabitah, Libya neither with the state of Libya nor with the Libyan authorities nor with any other business partners". Such suspicions are "unfounded" and the "allegations being spread" are "untrue". The management of Imhausen-Chemie is "firmly convinced" that the present investigations by the authorities "will confirm the untenability of the allegations". [passage omitted]

Pan-Arab Congresses Discuss U.S. 'Threats'

LD0201163389 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayy al-Nar 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Pan-Arab People's Congresses in a number of the municipalities in Great Al-Jamahiriyah held emergency sessions to discuss the threats directed by the U.S. President against the Libyan Arab people and its civilized achievements that serve man everywhere.

The masses of the above congresses have condemned the U.S. threats stressing that they represent a threat against the entire Arab nation.

Any hostile aggression launched by the leader of terrorism, the U.S., will be encountered very strongly by the the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

The Arab nation is conscious of the pioneering role assumed by the Great Al-Fatih revolution for the Arab nation.

The above masses have announced that they are on the stand-by to defend the achievements accomplished by this revolution. Great Al-Jamahiriyah has become the land of all the Arabs. It is steadfast against all the capitulationist schemes against the Arab nation aiming at subjugating it to imperialism and Zionism.

The above masses have paid tribute to the supportive stand of the Arab League and the important resolutions it has passed standing by the Libyan Arab people. They stress that these resolutions have to be implemented forthwith to reply to U.S. threats through assuming a unified Arab stand against the present U.S. governmnet.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Syrian Health Minister

LD0401150489 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ayy al-Nar [January] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received yesterday morning both Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti the minister of health in sisterly Syria, Dr. Ahmad Munir al-Hafiz the secretary-general of the Arab Pharmacists Union (APU) and a Syrian delegation that included the director general of the Syrian Medicine Industry Firm and the assistant Syrian health minister for medical affairs.

The Syrian minister affirmed Syria's unlimited standing by the Libyan Arab people and its pride in the leading role of the leader to achieve the Arab nation's unity and progress.

He declared that he has come to take part—in the name of Syrian doctors, pharmacists and nurses in the vigil held at Al-Rabitah medicine plant because such a plant is considered a cultural accomplishment for the whole Arab nation an not only for the Libyan Arab people.

APU secretary-general expressed the Arab pharmacists' unlimited pro-Libyan Arab people stance in its confrontation with the imperialist assault aimed at the Arab nation's pride and dignity.

He announced that Arab pharmacists had taken a decision during a meeting they held in Casablanca last Al-Kanun month [December] to boycott U.S. medical products in the event of any U.S. aggression against Great Jamahiriyah, expressing the readiness of Arab pharmacists to defend Al-Rabitah medicine plant with blood and souls.

He confirmed that groups of Arab pharmacists will join their Libyan Arab pharmacist brothers to hold a vigil inside the plant.

The Syrian minister and APU secretary-general asserted that the Libyan Arab people does not stand alone in this confrontation, but the whole Arab nation is standing with it in disgust at the American arrogance and disregard towards it, its destiny and its future.

Morocco

Reportage on Visit of Polisario Delegation

To Meet With King Hassan

LD0301204089 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Excerpt] This evening, a high ranking Polisario delegation is to meet the Moroccan King Hassan II. This meeting, the first of its kind since the outbreak of the Saharan conflict, will be held amid positive indicators which herald the nearing of a solution to the conflict. Among these indicators, the expected visit of the special representative of the UN secretary general to the region to study the measures for the organization of a plebiscite on self-determination.

The news was announced by Saharan sources in Algeria, and said that a high ranking delegation is to meet this evening the Moroccan King Hassan II in Marakesh. The delegation consists of the members of the executive committee: SADR Prime Minister Mahfoud Ali Beiba, Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, the front's foreign relations official, and Defense Minister Ibrahim Ghali.

The Saharan delegation's visit to Morocco, say the reports, follows the statements by King Hassan II on his readiness to meet a Polisario delegation. We point out that this positive step comes a few days before the tour of the UN secretary general's personal representative, Hector Gros Espiell, to study the practical steps for the organization of a plebiscite on self-determination. Morocco and the Polisario front have agreed on the principle of organizing a direct dialogue.

Following the Moroccan king's announcement of his readiness to open this dialogue, the Polisario front, decided after it had considred the king's initiative positive, to send a senior delegation to meet the king. Reports citing Saharan sources say that the Polisario is optimistic vis-a-vis this dialogue, despite the fact that it cannot be crowned from the start with tangible results.

The same sources say that among the preliminary results of this meeting, is the calming of the situation and the removal of the causes of tension in preparation for the creation of a ground for understanding and the breaking of the psychological wall that has separated the two sides for 13 years.

Observers say that among the actual results of this meeting is the fact that representatives are going beyond prejudice and are entering a dialogue on the core of the matter, which is what the previous meetings between the representatives of the front and Moroccan officials failed to achieve at a secondary level. [passage omitted]

AFP Notes Arrival

NC0301214889 Paris AFP in English 2141 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Marrakesh, Morocco, Jan 3 (AFP)—A delegation from the Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for control of the former Western Sahara territory, arrived here on Tuesday for unprecedented direct talks with Moroccan officials, according to unofficial reports.

Moroccan officials refused to confirm the reports, saying they had "no knowledge" of any such visit.

The reports said the delegation, including Polisario's number-two leader Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, arrived on a special plane from Algiers at the military airport of Benguerir, some 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Marrakesh.

Journalists were not allowed to attend the arrival.

The reports said that the delegation was escorted by the royal guard of King Hassan II to this southern city.

APS on Arrival

LD0401111189 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, 4/1/89 (APS)—The Sahraoui delegation which is to meet King Hassan-II of Morocco arrived on Tuesday in Marrakesh, Sahraoui sources said in Algiers. This delegation, it was recalled, is notably composed of the members of the Polisario Front Executive Committee, Mahfoud Ali Beiba, SDAR Prime Minister Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, head of the external relations of the Front and Ibrahim Ghali, SDAR defense minister.

Sudan

SPLA's John Garang Makes New Year Speech

EA0301023289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Speech by John Garang, commander in chief of the SPLA and chairman of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command, on the occasion of the New Year and Sudan's 33d independence anniversary; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Fellow countrymen, on behalf of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High command and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to greet very warmly all the Sudanese people everywhere, inside and outside the Sudan on the two occasions of tomorrow. Tomorrow—1st of January 1989—we will mark the beginning of a new year; it will also mark the 33d anniversary of Sudan's formal independence.

The New Year often affords an occasion for an individual and for society to reflect on the ups and downs of the year just ended and to plan and hope for the best for the year just beginning. Similarly, an independence anniversary provides society with an occasion to have a long and deep assessment of its independence period so that past mistakes are avoided and lessons learnt from them, while successes are extended and deepened. [passage omitted]

On the economic front, you all know that little good—if any—happened in 1988. The year was worse that the year that preceded it. Prices skyrocketed with the sack of dhurrah [sorghum] selling for over 2,000 Sudanese pounds in some places. Commodities disappeared from the markets even the basic necessities such as life-sving drugs could not be found. The war continued and intensified and hundreds of thousands of our people in the south and southern Kurdufan were displaced and suffered death, hunger, unimaginable hardship, humilitation and erosion to their human dignity.

In Darfur, Sadiq al-Mahdi opened a new war front, as if that in the south was not sufficient drain on the country. Sadiq invited foreign troops into Darfur in the form of the so-called Islamic Legion. For a long time, the Sudanese people were told obnoxious lie that was happening in darfur was local armed robbery without being told who was robbing who. True there was armed robbery.

Robbery was and continues to be meted out on the indiginous people of Darfur by foreign troops invited in by Sadiq al-Mahdi to create in Darfur the murahilin [militia] situation he sponsors now in Bahr al-Ghazal. The SPLA long ago alerted the Sudanese people of this danger. I take this opportunity to once more assure the people of Darfur that the SPLA is aware of their plight, that their pleas have reached the SPLA leadership and that the SPLA stands firmly in solidarity with their struggle as it does for all oppressed masses of the Sudan.

Compatriots, on the question of relief, the SPLA did everything to appeal to international organizations to alleviate the immense suffering our people are facing. One of the positive developments of 1988 was that both the SPLA and the regime in Khartoum reached agreement with the ICRC to provide relief assistance to those in need on both sides of the conflict. I take the opportunity to assure our people and the international community that the SPLA will continue to respect this agreement on relief and to create more conditions for the extension of relief to cover rehabilitation so that the people can cultivate next rainy season to become self-sufficient.

On the political front, there were many attempts at peaceful resolution to the conflict. The movement met with the Sudan African parties and both called for peace. The movement united with Anyanya II [roman numeral two] and called for peace. The movement met with the Sudanese bishops and both called for peace. And last month, on 16 November 1988, the movement concluded a peace initiative accord with the Democratic Unionist

Party, the DUP. This was a historic agreement that, like Koka dam, was applauded by all peace-loving forces all over the country and by the international community that wishes the Sudan well.

In fact today, the last day of this year, should have marked the beginning of the national constitutional conference and we should have started the new year tomorrow with high hopes for peace and prosperity. But you all know what happened. Sadiq and Turabi would have none of this. Sadiq and Turabi were determined to see to it that the Sudanese people ended 1988 in frustration and to begin 1989 in despair. The Sadiq-Turabi government formally rejected peace as the year ended and had only war to offer.

I take this opportunity once more to congratulate the DUP for their courage to reach the peace initiative with the SPLA to begin with. I further congratulate the DUP for ending the year by doing the honorable, expected, and patriotic act: to resign from the Turabi-Sadiq government. This action by the DUP will go a long way towards bringing about peace to our country.

The forces of war and disaster are now known and isolated, specifically they are Sadiq and Turabi. I also take the opportunity to call on others still on to get off the sinking ship of Sadiq and Turabi. I specially call on my friend, General 'Abd al-Majid [Hamid Khalil, defense minister] to follow the DUP lead. Since Gen 'Abd al-Majid openly came out in support of the peace initiative, he should resign now in honor rather than wait to be fired in disgrace and replaced by [Major-General Mahdi Babu Nimr, the chief of staff and son of the Baqqarah chief the] son of Babu Nimr.

I also take the opportunity to express our firm stand and complete solidarity with and to congratulate the trade union federation, the alliance, the African parties and all the forces of the uprising for ending the year appropriately by forcing Sadiq and Turabi to swallow their own bitter pill to cancel the 500-percent price increase. If nothing went well for the Sudanese people in 1989, Sadiq's about-face to cancel the price increases is a major victory for the people and has revealed that the new monster, like Numayri, is after all easily perishable.

Fellow countrymen, where on earth are prices increased by decree overnight by 500 percent? This is an act that amounts to a stab in the heart—murder. But then, this is not a surprise. When he came to power as prime minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi said he was going to work without a salary and he probably still works without a salary.

Sadiq must be among the very few of the world who are spared the agony of having not to plan and manage a family budget that is limited by an income constraint. Since he does not have a salary, Sadiq does not know what it means in the kitchen to increase prices by 500 percent. His breakfast, his lunch, his dinner and all that he desires are always available irrespective of the level of prices.

Sadiq must have been shocked and surprised and probably still is as to why the people demonstrated at the 500 percent price increase. Sadiq cancelled the price increase not out of compassion for the suffering of the people, but out of fear of the wrath of the people and the prospect of losing of power. But then the people have smelt Sadiq's weakness and they will not stop.

Compatriots, I very much wish to wish you 1989 as a year of peace, but Sadiq and Turabi are determined to do everything in their power to see to it that peace does not break out. Yet I still wish the Sudan and our people 1989 to be a year of peace. Although the prospects appear so bleak, given the warmongering and intransigence of Sadiq and Turabi, there is yet hope in despair.

Human experience shows that in oppression and misery there is strong solidarity. And in that solidarity there is hope and happiness. That is why slaves are seen to be dancing, laughing and singing despite the cruel yoke of oppression and slavery. At the end of the day the human spirit prevails and the struggle is victory. It is in this context of solidarity in suffering and in struggle that I wish you a happy new year.

Fellow countrymen, tomorrow is also Sudan's independence anniversary, the 33d one. In 33 years of formal independence, our country has been at war within itself for 23 years, punctuated by 10 years of blatant corruption, nepotism, legalized robbery of public funds, and destruction of institutions. I ask you to reflect why our country has been at war within itself for 23 of 33 years of independence. I submit to you that the reason is not so hard to find.

It is common sense that in a multi-nationality country in which one of the nationalities poses and imposes itself as the only nationality with history and culture and goes to the absurd unnatural extent to force the other nationalities to convert, that country is pregnant with discontent, instability, and crisis that eventually errupt in open warfare. This has been our case in the Sudan. The same is true for a multi-religious country in which one of the religions legislates itself as the official state religion. This has also been our case in the Sudan. This is simple common sense, but then common sense is not that common, and people like Sadiq, Turabi and the like, fail to see this common sense truth.

Fellow countrymen, I end this New Year and independence anniversary message by taking advantage of the occasion to comment briefly on the recent developments in our country.

Firstly: There was no reason for Sadiq and Turabi to refuse peace. This is an obvious indication of lack of leadership and statesmanship.

Secondly: There was no reason for Sadiq and Turabi to increase prices by the unbelievable figure 500 percent. This simply is an indication of lack of compassion. By

about face to cancel the price increases—although welcomed of course—shows that decisions are taken in Khartoum at random. There is simply no government in Khartoum and this complicates the peace progress.

Thirdly: I want once more to affirm and reassure the Sudanese people that the SPLM-SPLA stands with the people and will always stand with the people and will never at any time or for any reason betray the people's cause. The new Sudan is attainable and together with the people we will realize it.

Fourthly: I take the opportunity to call on the (? other) army—the Sudanese Army—to abandon Sadiq and Turabi. Their government cannot be salvaged.

As military men you should know that you never reinforce failure, and Sadiq and Turabi are failures. They have shown it time and time again by words and deeds. In this connection, I repeat my call of 22nd March 1985 to the Sudanese Army, especially those fighting in the south, to open direct dialogue with the SPLA in the field, so as to initiate the process of change and peace from the trenches, since this has been made difficult by Sadiq and Turabi in Khartoum.

Each officer and soldier in the trenches of Torit, Nasir, Juba, Wau, Malakal, and so on should ask himself why he fights the SPLA when the SPLA stands for the unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan, when the SPLA stands for peace justice and prosperity for the Sudan. For us in the SPLA, we fight because there is no justice in Khartoum. There has never been justice for all in Khartoum since independence, and those who have ruled the Sudan from Khartoum have looted and ruined the country and brought the country to the brink of bankruptcy and collapse. We want to change all this for a better, proud and prosperous Sudan. What about you, the Sudanese officer and soldier? Why do you fight?

Fifthly, the SPLM-SPLA adds its voice and weight to the call by the Sudanese people on Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law Turabi to resign and quit public life. Enough is enough. Sadiq and Turabi are a liability to the Sudan. I ask the Sudanese people to reflect, as they observe the New Year and Independence Day tomorrow, to reflect on why Sadiq and Turabi should continue in power. What good will these two do for the Sudan in 1989 after rejecting peace?

Finally, if Sadiq and Turabi's government does not resign, I repeat my call of 12 July 1988 on the Sudanese forces of the uprising to prepare for a third intifadah and for all of us this time to insure that the peoples victory does not get stolen again. On this I wish to assure you that the SPLM-SPLA will play its maximum expected role in the intifadah.

Again, I wish all the best that is possible in the New Year that begins tomorrow. Despite the intransigence and warmongering in Khartoum, I assure you that SPLM-SPLA will never abandon the search for peace and justice. Thank you very much.

Delegation To Go to Ethiopia for SPLA Talks

EA0401112189 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is currently having intensive contacts aimed at forming a government delegation which will fly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for peace talks with the rebel movement of John Garang, despite the movement's refusal to meet any deputation till the government officially endorses the DUP-SPLA peace initiative, the daily independent "AL-AYYAM" reported today.

The paper, in a frontpage story, said the government deputation will be led by Defence Minister Gen. (ret) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and will include a number of senior military officers besides partisan representatives. It said the visit—which will be in the upcoming few days—is aiming to convince the SPLA leaders to take part in the long-awaited constitutional conference.

Informed sources quoted by the daily said the delegation will have the official authorisation of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to talk with the SPLA on a ceasefire and state of emergency lifting questions.

The paper meanwhile said the Ethiopian Government has said it would welcome the Sudanese Government delegation at any time.

Meanwhile, the SPLA pirate radio has announced the SPLA would not received any government delegation without a formal approval by the government of the peace agreement signed early last month with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), in Addis Ababa.

The premier told a conference here this week that the government would not be in a position to lift the state of emergency currently in force in the country before the ceasefire implementation.

Further on Police Clashes With Demonstrators

LD3012115388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 Dec 88

["The Workers Union (?Lifts) the Strike"—SUNA headline]

[Text] [Passage omitted] of the demonstrators at 1300 [1100 GMT] yesterday (? occupied) [words indistinct] the buildings of the Council of Ministers following skirmishes and [word indistinct] between the police and the demonstrators which continued for half an hour during which the police used tear gas and truncheons.

The demonstrators responded by throwing stones and the conflict progressed to heavy gunfire for 5 minutes after which the demonstrators (? succeeded in) entering the Council of Ministers, in spite of the Council's decree revoking the tax and price increases. The demonstrators next gathered in the inner courtyard of the Council's buildings and proceeded to chant slogans demanding the (?resignation) of the government and (? holding up) [word indistinct] stained with the blood of some of the injured.

Meanwhile, after summoning reinforcements, the police succeeded in bringing the situation under control [words indistinct] tear gas and water hoses.

In the meantime, Judges Adil Samir and Nadir Sad denied that they had issued orders that the demonstators be fired on. The judge of the Governorate was summoned after the situation had reached a crisis. Legal sources said that an investigation would be instituted to ascertain [words indistinct] who opened fire.

The commander of the police forces insisted on denying (? that he) had given any orders to open fire, although he thought it not unlikely that some instances of opening fire into the air or in self-defence had occurred.

Moreover, several newspapers issued today reported that the firing on the demonstrators had emanated from a number of individuals dressed in civilian clothes. They fired on the demonstrators from a vehicle before taking flight.

Prime Minister Terms Riots 'Spontaneous'
LD3112112988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1019 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, (SUNA)—In a news conference yesterday Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said only one person was killed in the riots and that fifteen others were injured besides six injured in the eastern region town of Geddarid.

Al-Mahdi said damages to public properties was limited. He denied however thta police has shot at the people. He pointed that the riots were spontaneous but took political colour since yesterday.

Trade Unions Respond to Government Wage Action
EA3012160988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1111 GMT 30 Dec 88

["The Government Accedes to the Workers Demands"—SUNA headline]

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—The General Union of Trade Unions of Sudan last night issued a statement announcing [words indistinct] to a note from the Council of Ministers (?stating) the latter's accession to the [words indistinct] raising the lowest wage scale on a back-dated basis as of (?the beginning of) July and (?extending) it to the private sector.

The union said that this constituted (?accession) to all the (?demands) submitted in a note to the Council of Ministers the day before yesterday [28 December] and the union was accordingly announcing the lifting of the strike. [words indstinct] the Council of Ministers which acceded to some of the demands of the workers [words indistinct] to continue with the (?declared) strike.

Bahrain

PLO Manama Office Gains Embassy Status

JN0301114889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, 3 Jan (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah received Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf and the delegation accompanying him here today.

During the meeting, the prime minister declared the Bahraini Government's decision to turn the PLO office in Bahrain into an embassy for the independent State of Palestine.

He also praised the brisk Palestinian diplomatic move which reflects the Palestinian determination to establish the independent Palestinian state. He hailed the Palestinian people's valiant uprising in the occupied territories, which proved the Palestinian people's rejection of the occupation and their adherence to the right of self-determination. He said that this has drawn world attention to the Palestine question.

The prime minister also stressed the support of the Bahraini amir, government, and people for the Palestinian steps toward self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

Following the meeting, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] told WAKH that he reviewed with the Bahraini prime minister recent developments in the Palestine question in light of the recent diplomatic initiatives, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, and current developments in the Arab arena.

The Palestinian official said that the Bahraini prime minister supported all the Palestinian steps, and that the Bahraini stand has always been firm.

Concluding his statement, Khalaf expressed the PLO's thanks and appreciation for the Bahraini Government's decision to turn the PLO office into a Palestinian embassy and for Bahrain's continuous support for the Palestinian people.

Kuwait

Reportage on Visit by British Foreign Secretary

Arrives 2 Jan

LD0201180489 KuwaitdDomestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived here this evening on a 21-hour visit as the first leg of a 10-day tour of the region which will take him to six Arab states.

He was welcomed upon his arrival by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, acting prime minister and foreign minister; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; the two countries' ambassadors Ghazi al-Rayyis and Robert Hinchcliffe; departmental directors; and a number of senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to the pressmen upon arrival, Sir Geoffrey said that he is looking forward to meeting his highness the amir, and added that he will examine with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad a number of bilateral issues of mutual interest.

He recalled his recent meeting with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad at the UN General Assembly in New York and pointed out that "important developments" have occurred in local and international issues during the last 3 years, including the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, the guaranteeing of free navigation in the Gulf and changes in Soviet policy, particularly in Afghanistan, and finally positive developments in the dialogue revolving around the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The British foreign secretary added that the main lesson from which everyone should have benefited is the need to deal with the Middle East problem with perseverence and endurance. He added that Britain has played a distinguished role as far as the current dialogue is concerned. He expressed the belief that moderation is the key to achieving further progress in the peace process, and added the next step should now come from Israel.

Sir Geoffrey Howe pointed out that among the topics which he will examine during this tour is reaffirming Britain's insistence on the need to safeguard security and peace in the Gulf. He described Britain's relations with Kuwait as excellent, adding that they are characterized by friendship and strong cooperation.

Interviewed on Middle East

LD0101114089 Kuwait KUNA in English 0840 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 1 (KUNA)—British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe has reiterated his country's firm belief that an international peace conference represents the best framework for negotiations between parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an interview with local weekly AL-YAQZAH conducted in London, to be published in Tuesday's issue, Howe said that the UK will continue to urge Arabs and Israelis alike of this concept, be that through bilateral contacts or the EC tripartite committee (troika).

Evaluating the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the PLO, the British foreign secretary affirmed that Yasir 'Arafat's statement in Geneva on recognising U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 came in a crystal clear language, "which the U.S. and we were waiting for."

On the other hand, he denied that the Iraq-Iran peace talks are passing through a stagnant phase, stressing that the two parties have realised many important steps in recent months, including a still valid ceasefire. He asked both Tehran and Baghdad to show some flexibility and cooperation for peace in the region.

In this respect the British minister (?saluted) efforts of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, saying, "he's doing a wonderful job under extremely difficult circumstances. We've absolute confidence in the way Secretary General de Cuellar deals with these talks and we're ready to extend our support."

Furtnermore, he affirmed that the resumption of relations between Britain and Iran will enable both countries to establish peace and stability in the Gulf.

Howe, who visits Kuwait Monday within a Gulf tour, said that the Gulf talks will be a key issue in his discussions with Kuwaiti officials, noting that he was eager to listen to what they have to say in this regard.

Commenting on Kuwait-BP [British Petroleum] affairs, Howe said that his government has given Kuwait a period of three years to reduce its stake in the company from 21.6 percent to 9.9 percent, adding that such a step was mutually agreed upon by all parties involved.

Meets Al-Sabah, Others

LD0301160689 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1137 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait 3 Jan (KUNA)—An official meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry between the Kuwaiti and British sides today before noon.

The Kuwaiti side was led by Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; and the British side was led by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British foreign secretary.

The meeting was attended on the Kuwaiti side by Mr Sa'ud Muhammad Al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Mr Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; Mr Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawi', director of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry; Mr. Ghazi al-Rayyis, Kuwaiti ambassador in London; Mr. Abdallah Sa'ud al-'Abd al-Razzaq, director of the acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office; and 'Abdallah Murad, advisor at the European Department of the Foreign Ministry. Attending on the British side were (Corbett), under secretary at the Foreign Office; Robert Hinchcliffe, British ambassador in Kuwait; and a number of officials accompanying Mr Howe.

An authoritative source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry told KUNA that during the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations as well as other Arab and international topics. An atmosphere of mutual frankness and understanding prevailed during the meeting, he added.

Departs for Saudi Arabia

LD0301160789 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1246 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait 3 Jan (KUNA)—British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe left the country for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this afternoon; the second leg of his current tour to six Arab countries.

He was seen off by Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin under secretary at the foreign ministry; the two countries's respective ambassadors; and a number of senior officials at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

PLO Office To Be Raised to Ambassadorial Level

LD3112102788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0847 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait Dec 31 (KUNA)—Kuwait has decided to raise the status of the PLO office here to an ambassadorial level some time during the current week, Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN said Saturday [31 December].

In a first page headline, the paper said arrangements in this regard were through with and preparations for celebrations of hoisting the Palestinian flag over Palestine's embassy are being going on.

The FLO office in Saudi Arabia will be converted to an embassy of the independent Palestinan state as of Jan 1 1989 after a similar decision by the Kingdom was taken last week.

Paper Blames Israel for Pan Am Plane Blast

LD0201092789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 2 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper Monday charged that the blowing up of the Pan American passenger airplane last December 21 was an Israeli action with the aim of (?undermining) current peace efforts.

"AL-SIYASAH" daily noted that the Pan Am explosion has occured soon after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declaration on renouncing terrorism and after the cease-fire in the Gulf and after the entire world began to put pressure on Israel to agree on an international peace conference.

The paper contended that Israel is aware that the U.S. public opinion and administration are fed up with the Jewish State's practices, behavior and illogical demands, citing the Israeli opposition to the arms deal to Saudi Arabia as an example.

The paper added that the U.S.-Israeli relations needed something that would support Israel's claim that it holds the key to stability in the Middle East.

The paper reached to the conclusion that Israel has exploded the American plane with the aim of giving the impression that as long as terrorism exists, peace will remain very far.

AL-SIYASAH gave an example on Israeli terrorist practices in the past by recalling the blowing up of King David Hotel before the creation of the Jewish State which aimed at killing Britons and force Britain to withdraw from Palestine.

The main purpose Israel sought from blowing up the Pan Am plane is to influence the U.S. public opinion and force it to abandon its quest for peace in the Middle East.

The paper said however, that Israel will not succeed this time because the world cannot be fooled by a simple telephone call claiming responsibility for the explosion and the men of the Middle East today really insist on achieving peace and on the holding of the international peace conference.

AL-QABAS on Pan Am Crash Accusations

JN0101180289 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 31 Dec 8 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel at the Top of the List"]

[Text] After all, Israel may have been behind the explosion of the U.S. plane! Why are accusations leveled only against the Arabs? Without accusing the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, we ask ourselves the following question: Why do analysts and the media in the West insist on Arabizing the issue and excluding the Iranian guards in spite of the fact that it was the only party to claim responsibility for the explosion?

Why did Phyllis Oakley, the official spokesman for the U.S. State Department, refuse to reveal the names of two other parties that she said had also claimed responsibility for the operation?

Why have fingers of accusation been pointed only to Palestinian organizations that they term as being radical in spite of the fact that these organizations had categorically denied their involvement and affirmed that the settlement of their differences with Yasir 'Arafat does not take place through the killing of innocents? Why this haste in blaming this or that party while the investigations are afoot in Europe, the United States, and other parts of the world?

If the objective is to suspend the dialogue between the United States and the PLO, then Israel is the only party in the world that has something to gain and that wishes to end it.

If any party is capable of perpetrating this complicated crime, none is more capable than Israel as it is the master of state terrorism.

If there are people "graced" with such high morals, Israel would top the league; its history is replete with such incidents. It blew up Jewish hotels and sank vessels full of Jewish immigrants to win sympathy and blamed others. Several Jews were on the Pan Am flight.

Perhaps fate has worked in the interest of the investigators and the truth of what really happened on this flight will be ultimately revealed because the aircraft crashed on land and not in the sea as the perpertrators had hoped. There still remains some hope that something will be found that will lead the investigators to the criminals.

Is not the arrest of several Jews near the place where the plane crashed a lead that can be followed up? Were they robbing the jewelry of the dead, or were they trying to conceal traces of the crime?

The big question that waits for an answer is the following: Is the United States ready to say that Israel is the real culprit if the investigation so proves, or will it try to conceal this?

While the investigations are afoot, we hope that the newspapers in London and Washington would stop leveling their uncorroborated accusations against the Arabs.

We also call on Washington to reveal the names of the two other parties that it said had claimed responsibility for the operation. We frankly believe that these two parties are not Arab parties. Otherwise, the U.S. Administration would have immediately revealed their identity.

ARAB TIMES: Israel Bombed Pan Am Plane
JN0301162889 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 2 Jan 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Israel Is the Culprit"]

[Text] Who bombed the Pan Am plane? It remains a mystery.

The Pan Am explosion occurred soon after Yasir 'Arafat's true and direct declaration renouncing terrorism. It came after the ceasefire in the Gulf and after outside operations had stopped. It also followed the agreement, of all the nations in the UN, to shift the General Assembly deliberations on the Palestine issue to Geneva to hear the PLO leader's speech.

The speech was heard, supported and sympathised with. The entire world began to put pressure on Israel to agree on an international peace conference. It is Israel alone who rejects holding the conference, simply because it does not want the peace the world wants. It only wants the peace that complies with fanatical Jewish ideology.

Returning to our question, who really bombed the Pan Am jumbo? Israel, naturally, is aware of how such an incident will affect the U.S. public sympathy. The side which bombed the plane, if known, will surely gain the U.S. public opinion's enmity.

Israel also realises that U.S. public opinion and the administration are fed up with the Jewish nation's practices, behaviour and illogical demands. This has reached the extent that any American action in favour of Israel, is leading to exactly the opposite result.

The U.S., for example, responded to the Israeli demand by not going ahead with the arms deal with Saudi Arabia, resulting in Saudis buying arms from the UK and China under better conditions. U.S. also positively responded with the Israeli demand in not granting the PLO chairman a visa so that he could address the UN General Assembly in New York. The session was afterwards shifted to Geneva, harming U.S. prestige.

The U.S. has become tired of illogical Israeli demands and in turn Israel has started feeling that the U.S. public opinion has begun to put pressure on its administration. The U.S.-Israeli relations needed something that would support Israel's claim that it holds the key to stability in the Middle East and that it represents the U.S. interests.

So, Israel exploded the American plane. Such a neat and accurate operation is neither an Arab one nor carried out by any Middle East country. It aimed at implying that as long as terrorism exists, peace will remain very far. Israel, which allowed reckless people to kill its ambassador in London in 1982 to use it as a pretext to invade and occupy parts of Lebanon, will never hesitate to do anything else.

Present Israeli leaders are the colleagues and sons of the leaders of the Jewish terrorist gangs, who before 1948 killed many Britons, by blowing up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem to force the English withdraw from Palestine and declare the establishment of Israel.

The blowing up of the Pan Am plane is an Israeli action. Its main purpose is to influence the U.S. public opinion and force it to abandon its quest to achieve peace in the Middle East. However, Israel will not succeed in its game this time. the world cannot be fooled by a simple telephone call to a news agency claiming that a certain organisation carried out the bombing. Such calls are no longer effective.

In addition, the men of the Middle East today really insist in achieving peace and in holding the international peace conference, despite Israeli behaviour.

In the future, we will find out that those who bombed the U.S. aeroplane to kill the Americans are the same people who blew up the King David Hotel to kill the British. This is because the fanatic Israel feels that what Hitler committed is a debt on the whole free world and it avenges whenever an opportunity arises.

PDRY

Al-Dali on Possible Resumption of U.S. Ties
PM3012150588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 88 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "PDRY Foreign Minister to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No U.S. Condition for Restoring Diplomatic Relations With Washington"]

[Excerpt] Aden, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Contacts being made to restore diplomatic relations between the United States and the PDRY have entered a crucial phase despite the claim by informed sources that Washington has made it conditional that the Abu Nidal movement's offices in the country be closed.

Although in a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali denied the existence of these U.S. conditions and even that of offices for Abu Nidal, diplomatic sources said that the authorities in Aden 3 weeks ago informed Abu Nidal movement officials of the need to close their center and reduce their activities.

And although these sources linked current Washington-Aden contacts and Aden's measures against the Abu Nidal movement, Dr al-Dali said that the PDRY is not against restoring relations, and that there is no obstacle to their resumption.

Dr al-Dali added that as the reasons which led to the severance of these relations have been eliminated, or are on their way to being eliminated, he believes that international interests prompt the need to establish relations among all countries, large and small.

He emphasized that the only condition for restoring relations must be that of noninterference in internal affairs and rejection of the methods used in the past.

Minister al-Dali rejected what was described as conditions. He said: I have not heard about the existence of any conditions, and we do not base our relations on any kind of conditions.

He refused to be specific about the date of the restoration of relations, saying: Let us leave this to the future. Nevertheless he confirmed the existence of contacts with the United States regarding the resumption of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Denies Contacts With U.S.

JN0201095789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jan (WAKH)—PDRY Foriegn Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali has denied that his country and the United States have held direct contacts on resuming diplomatic relations, which have been severed since 1969.

In a statment to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, the Yemeni minister said, "No South Yemeni official has held direct contacts with U.S. officials on this subject."

However, the minister explained that his country will not object to the establishment of diplomatic relations with any state that wishes to establish such ties, including the United States, provided that these relations are based on mutual respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Diplomat Murdered in Bangkok; Killer Escapes

BK0401123889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 4 (AFP)—A Saudi diplomat was shot and killed here Wednesday [4 January], police said.

Police identified the dead man as Salah al-Maliki, a third secretary at the Saudi Embassy here.

The embassy refused to comment on the report.

Police quoted eye-witnesses as saying that the Saudi diplomat was shot and killed not far from the embassy in central Bangkok at 2:45 p.m. (0745 GMT).

Police said the diplomat was killed by three shots from a revolver.

The killer escaped, police said.

Envoys Cited on Diplomat Shot in Pakistan

PM3012160188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Dec 88 pp 1-2

[Rifqi al-Tayyib and Hasin Bunyan report: "Saudi Consul in Karachi to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Culprit Has Pakistani Features and Al-'Amri Received Threat'"]

[Excerpts] London, Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Saudi Consul General in Karachi 'Abd Rabbuh Zuhayri has emphasized the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's confidence in the Pakistani security organ's ability to unravel the clues of the attack on Saudi diplomat Hasan 'Ali Muhammad al-'Amri and arrest the culprit who carried out that terrorist act on Tuesday afternoon. [passage omitted]

Zuhayri added Saudi Ambassador Yusuf al-Mutabbaqani yesterday visited the Sind chief minister and the Sind State's ruler within the context of following up the course of investigations. [passage omitted]

The Saudi consul general said that he understood from Al-'Amri that the person who shot him had Pakistani features and the attack occurred on the road leading to the street where the wounded diplomat resides.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT whether the Saudi Consulate or its staff had received any threats recently, Zuhayri said: Among our statements to the Pakistani investigating committee is one to the effect that 3 months ago the victim's wife received an anonymous telephone call from a person speaking broken Arabic, in which he threatened to kidnap Al-'Amri's children. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry's office in Karachi was informed at the time.

Zuhayri also said that Hasan 'Ali al-'Amri has no personal enemies and is a staffer known for his honesty and conscientiousness.

In Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the wounded diplomat is still in the Armed Forces Hospital's intensive care unit. He received two bullets; one penetrated his neck and the other entered one ear and emerged from the other side, causing internal hemorrhage. [passage omitted]

UK's Geoffrey Howe Arrives in Riyadh 3 Jan

LD0301192689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1555 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, this evening arrived in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom which will last several days.

He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Professor Nasir al-Manqur, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Britain; Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid 'Alamadar, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Stephen Egerton, British ambassador to the Kingdom; members of the embassy staff; a representative from Royal Protocol; and a number of officials.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD0401101689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0857 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA)—At the Foreign Ministry this morning official Saudi-UK talks were held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, UK foreign commonwealth secretary. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Sir Geoffrey Howe had a preparatory meeting in the prince's office. The meeting was attended by the UK and Saudi ambassadors.

Meets Defense Minister

LD0401113489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, at his office this morning received His Excellency Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British secretary of foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting they exchanged friendly talk and examined issues of mutual interest to both countries.

The meeting was attended by Mr 'Uthman al-Humayyad, adviser to the minister of defense and aviation and inspector general for military affairs, Mr Nasir al-Manqur; the custodian of the two holy mosques; the ambassador to Britain; Mr Stephen Egerton, British ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid 'Ilmadar, Foreign Ministry head of protocol.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Riyadh 1 Jan

LD0101115589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0951 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 1 Jan (SPA)—The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Meets King Fahd

LD0301180989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1729 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Dammam, 3 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, this evening received the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by Hani al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee and political adviser to 'Arafat.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Al-Mintaqah al-Sharqiyah.

Yasir 'Arafat visited the office of the People's Committee for Support of the Families of the Martyrs and Fighters of Palestine in Al-Dammam this afternoon.

Briefs U.S. Professors

JN0301205289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has met in Riaydh with a U.S. delegation of 14 professors from the U.S. Ohio University visiting Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, brother leader Abu 'Ammar reviewed developments in the Palestinian arena and the PLO's peace appeal to establish an independent Palestinian state on the national Palestinian soil in order to guarantee peace and security in the region.

United Arab Emirates

PLO Office Upgraded to Embassy 5 Jan

JN0401105589 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The UAE has decided to consider the PLO office in the country an embassy of the State of Palestine as of tomorrow, Thursday.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

Proceeding from its firm belief in the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, its support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in confirmation of His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's special interest in the Palestine question, in support for the PNC resolutions in Algiers and as a result of the UAE's recognition of the State of

Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital, the UAE has decided to consider the PLO office in Abu Dhabi an embassy of the State of Palestine to the UAE as of Thursday, 27 Jumada al-Ula, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 5 January, 1989, and to consider the PLO representative an ambassador of the State of Palestine to the UAE.

Reportage on Visit by Bahraini Prime Minister

Arrives 2 Jan

JN0201123989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, arrived here at noon today leading a large delegation on a visit to Iraq.

The Bahraini delegation comprises Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Salman ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, the prime minister's son; Dr Muhammad Fakhru, education minister; Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan, transport and communication minister; Shaykh Rashid ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, the Information Ministry under secretary; and Muhammad Ibrahim Al Mutawwa', director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

In a statement to INA, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman said he will convey the greetings and congratulations of Bahraini Amir 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah to President Saddam Husayn on the achievement of victory. He expressed the Bahraini Government's and people's pride in the victories achieved by the sons of Iraq.

He said: We are proud of Iraq's victories and achievements. He added that this will make us benefit from Iraq's experience and progress in all fields. He noted that Iraq is considered a support and power for Bahrain and the Arab nation.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir and Hasan 'Ali, RCC members; ministers; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the GCC ambassadors in Baghdad.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN0201165289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Excerpt] President leader Saddam Husayn has received His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, and the accompanying delegation.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah conveyed the congratulations of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, on the victory and peace achieved for the Arab nation under the historic leadership of President leader Saddam Husayn.

During the meeting, they discussed the developing fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to enhance them in various fields. They also discussed the Arab situation and the characteristics of fraternal relations in terms of cooperation and relinquishment of differences away from the policy of trusteeship and interference in internal affairs as well as the promotion of cooperation among Arab countries in all fields to realize common benefits.

They also discussed the situation in fraternal Lebanon and assessed the Palestinian achievements realized in this phase. Emphasis was laid on the need to hold an Arab summit as soon as possible to discuss the Arab situation in order to lay down the bases of joint Arab action. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0201172889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, left Baghdad this evening following a brief visit to Iraq. He was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir and Hasan 'Ali, RCC members; the ministers; and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman expressed his satisfaction and pleasure over meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He said: I conveyed to his excellency the greetings of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and his congratulations on the victory achieved by Iraq's sons.

Concerning Iraqi-Bahraini relations, his highness said in a statement to INA: These relations cannot be assessed by words because they are greater than words. We pray to God to keep the good, strong relations between Iraq and Bahrain for the sake of our Arab nation's might and loftiness. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Urge Inquiry Into Prisoner Executions

NC0201114389 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 2 (AFP)—The Baghdad-based Mujahidin-e-Khalq, the main Iranian opposition group, on Monday urged the United Nations to speed up sending a mission to Iran to investigate alleged executions of political prisoners.

In a communique released here, the group accused Iranian authorities of burning the executed prisoners' bodies or burying them in communal graves. It also appealed to international public opinion "to act in an effective manner to end the massive wave of executions" in Iran.

The Mujahidin, who expressed readiness to cooperate with any U.N. investigators by providing eyewitnesses and proof, have claimed that Iran has executed 12,000 political prisoners since a cease-fire with Iraq went into effect on August 20.

Iran has denied the charges.

Labor Minister Relieved, Substitute Appointed
JN0301173089 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 3, INA—Iraqi Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Bakr Mahmud Rasul has been relieved, under a republican decree issued today.

Under another decree Mr. Umid Midhat was appointed new labour and social affairs minister.

Oil Exports Via Jordan, Turkey Stop 1 Jan
JN0201174289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (WAKH)—Iraq has stopped the exportation of 90,000 barrels of crude oil aboard fuel tanks across Turkish and Jordanian territory. This decision was made out of Iraq's commitment to the production quota approved by OPEC which amounts to 2.64 million barrels a day.

A responsible source in the Iraqi Ministry of Oil has told a WAKH correspondent that the decision, which was put into effect yesterday, involves a halt to the exportation of 65,000 barrels of oil across Jordanian territory and 25,000 barrels of oil across Turkish territory.

It is known that Iraq is now exporting its oil by pipelines across Turkish territory with a capacity of 1.5 million barrels a day and also across Saudi territory with a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day in addition to the ports which began to export oil via the Arabian Gulf as of 20 August.

On the other hand, citizens in the northern area told the WAKH correspondent by telephone that the large numbers of Turkish fuel tanks which used to be seen on Iraq's international borders in the past years have begun to disappear when this decision was put into effect.

They pointed out that the large traffic jam which used to exist on the crossing points between the two countries has been much reduced as of yesterday.

Paper Warns Against Iran's 'Policy of Provocations'
JN0301083689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has strongly warned Iranian rulers against the consequences of the policy of provocations and threats, aggressive intentions, and the return to wrong and devious interpretations of international law.

This warning came in an article to be published by the newspaper here tomorrow under the heading "We Strongly Warn Against These Iranian Methods." The article is published in response to statements made by the commander of the Iranian Naval Force in which he said:

Iran will continue to practice its rights in the Gulf waters and the Strait of Hormuz and the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran will not prevent us from practicing these rights. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the article:

Once again, the Iranian regime resorts to the policy of provocations and threats. Once again, the regime of aggression flaunts its aggressive intentions by its return to wrong and devious interpretatios of international law.

Tehran radio reported that the commander of the Iranian Navy has said: Iran will continue to practice its rights in the Gulf waters and the Strait of Hormuz and the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq will not prevent Iran from practicing these rights.

It is clear that this statement refers to the subject of searching merchant vessels in international waters and passageways. Without any legal basis, the Iranian regime considered this subject one of its rights at the beginning of the cease-fire stage when it was surprised by its miscalculations and astonished by Iraq's use of its ports on the first day of the cease-fire.

If Iraq has, from the beginning, adhered to its full rights and practiced these legitimate rights and did not accept any damage to, or encroachment on them, victorious Iraq, which adheres to its rights and international laws, continues to strongly assert its stand and affirms the incompatibility of the Iranian stand, as voiced by the commander of the Iranian Navy, with international law. At the same time, Iraq declares it will respond to any act by Iran with the appropriate method.

While strongly warning against these Iranian methods, Iraq once again confirms its known ability to restrain any lunatic behavior, to which the Tehran regime may resort, through deterrent formulas and methods that will restore conscience to the rotten minds which rule in Tehran.

Iraq has dealt with these Iranian statements and threats before. It considered the searching of any Iraqi ship or any ship heading toward Iraq a frank violation of the cease-fire according to [UN Security Council] Resolution No 598, which called for a cease-fire and halting all military actions on land, in the air, and at sea.

Therefore, Iraq is once again calling on the UN secretary general to take immediate measures to ensure that the Iranian authorities understand their commitments according to the cease-fire.

At the same time, it affirms its adherence to its full rights and its rejection of the Iranian methods which aim to encroach on the freedom and safety of navigation in international waters and passageways.

We realize that the statements made by the Iranian Navy commander are part of the Iranian regime's policy, which is anti-peace and which evades adhering to permanent, comprehensive, and just peace by hampering the negotiations, rejecting the comprehensive exchange of POW's, and refusing to clear the Shatt al-'Arab.

We also realize that by aggravating the situation from time to time, the Iranian regime is trying to avoid a comprehensive peace and its clear commitments in order to delay the punishment it will receive from the Iranian peoples, whom it has led to destruction and economic disintegration.

However, we once again remind the Tehran regime of the danger of playing with fire. We also remind it that issues as dangerous as war are not suitable for use as material for internal conflicts or to distract the attention of the Iranian peoples, who have suffered from the fires of the war inflamed by the Tehran rulers 8 years ago.

The world's people have considered the stopping of war between Iraq and Iran an historic event that will restore security, stability, and peace to this region of the world. These peoples, and all quarters of world public opinion, realize that for 8 years Iraq was subjected to aggression and had fought with all ability with peace as a constant objective while the Tehran regime continued to reject peace and insisted on war until the moment of its military collapse under the feet of the Iraqi victorious armies, which liberated the entire homeland's soil and destroyed the tools and machine of aggression.

If Iraq has won the military battle by depending on right and power and by the creativity of its unique leader Saddam Husayn, this victory was a comprehensive one that will enable Iraq to win its political battle because Iraq represents right, adheres to international law, and depends on its ability and the clarity of its august principles, which won the world's respect.

We adhere to permanent, comprehensive, and just peace and we aim to achieve it. However, we adhere more to the full Iraqi rights and we vehemently and decisively reject any damage to or encroachment on them. Heading these rights is the right to navigation in international waters and passageways with full freedom and without any threats.

Arens on Peace Plan; New Proposal To Be Presented
TA0301152889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says that the government is now formulating its positions on peace and the initiatives it will take. Minister Arens expects that progress on peace in the region will be made in 1989. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the foreign minister addressed the Knesset at the start of a parliamentary debate on the PLO's latest declarations and Israel's positions.

Arens pointed out that the PLO is carrying out an unprecedented disinformation campaign which is part of the plan to destroy Israel by stages. He said Yasir 'Arafat is misleading the world by referring to an overall peace, which in fact does not include Israel. He said the readiness to talk with the PLO is a signal to all terrorist organizations that it does not pay to stop terrorist actions.

The Knesset debate is continuing, and at its conclusion a draft resolution will be presented by the coalition parties.

The proposal will say that Israel is prepared to talk to Palestinian public figures which recognize it, renounce terror, and accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The proposal will also say that the PLO, and any other terrorist organization which denies Israel's right to exist and uses terrorist actions, cannot be negotiating partners. The last clause in the draft resolution says that Israel renounces the establishment of an additional state between it and Jordan, and will insist that the Palestinian problem must be solved within an Israeli-Jordanian framework.

More on Arens Address on PLO
TA0301180589 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Address by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to Knesset plenum on 3 January; videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...is a racist, reactionary, and fascist movement. Despite the attempts by the PLO's propaganda machine, the true face of that organization continues to be revealed. Vast proof of this can be found in the statements made by the organization's leaders, particularly those statements made in the recent past.

The piece of evidence which is perhaps the most horrid and prominent can be found in Yasir 'Arafat's remarks in Riyadh 2 days ago. He said that any Palestinian leader who calls for an end to the intifadah [uprising] will be exposing himself to bullets fired by his brethren and will be risking his life. The PLO will know how to deal with that person. If this is not terrorism, Mr Speaker, then I do not know what terrorism is.

'Arafat is the man who on one hand takes action to foil any chance for a dialogue free of violence and terrorism, and on the other hand pulls the wool over the whole world's eyes by issuing statements on a comprehensive peace. This peace apparently includes everyone but Israel.

Mr Speaker, since the establishment of the State of Israel, the PLO has been one of the most difficult obstacles to peace. Any current readiness to talk to the PLO signals to other terrorist organizations in the world that they have no reason to end terrorism, but should step it up. Peace will grow farther and farther away from us as the PLO's strength and status grow. Israel's desire for peace is unparalleled. We pay for the lack of peace with the thing most dear to us: the lives of our sons. Peace is the most important item on our agenda; peace and security, peace that will not endanger the well-being of our citizens—the citizens of Israel.

Draft Knesset Resolution Envisions 'Full Autonomy'
TA0301181789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Hayim Ramon, chairman of the Alignment Faction; Sara Doron, head of the Likud Faction; and Knesset Member Hayim Corfu have agreed on additional clauses to the draft resolution that will be passed at the conclusion of the Knesset's political debate.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the coalition will state that Israel will take action toward the establishment of full autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and will encourage the Arabs of these areas to participate in the peace process. The concluding resolution also states that the PLO, whose policy is founded on the Palestinian Covenant, cannot be a partner to a dialogue.

Coalition Supports Resolution
TA0301195189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] At the conclusion of the Knesset debate after Foreign Minister Arens's address, all the coalition parties supported a resolution whose main point is that Israel is prepared to talk to Palestinian dignitaries and representatives who recognize Israel and who renounce terror. Israel will not negotiate with the PLO, since it is based on the Palestine Covenant.

Israel's aspiration is to achieve peace while ensuring its security. We will not lack courage and initiative, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today in his first meeting with all the foreign ambassadors and heads of foreign legations in Israel. Minister Arens said he hopes that there will be political progress in the coming year and that he will have the honor of making a personal contribution. He said there are ideas on how to advance the peace process, but that they have still not gone through the decisionmaking process. It would therefore not be wise to disclose details before the ideas are translated into an agreed political plan.

Arens Addresses Foreign Journalists on USSR, PLO

TA0301181289 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 3 Jan 89

[Text of statement by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens before the Foreign Press Association, Jerusalem, 3 January 1989—GPO headline]

[Excerpts] We are entering the year 1989, with hope and firm determination that it will be a year of progress for peace in the Middle East. We expect it to be a year in which Israel's diplomatic relations with countries throughout the world will expand. We have an auspicious beginning: Kenya has decided to resume diplomatic relations with Israel—the Israeli flag was hoisted in Niarobi just the other day—and we hope that many African countries will follow Kenya's example.

After over twenty years in which the Soviet Union has declined to resume diplomatic relations with Israel—they were broken by it in 1967—there seems good reason to expect significant improvements in the relationship between the two countries. We in Israel were gratified to be able to render a modest measure of assistance to the population of the Soviet Republic of Armenia that was struck so tragically by the recent earthquake, and we couldn't fail to notice that our assistance was appreciated by the Government of the Soviet Union.

Last year has also seen the release of the remaining prisoners of Zion, a great relaxation in the restrictions imposed on Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union, a very significant increase in the number of Soviet Jews that have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union. And I think all of this bodes very well for Israel-Soviet relations. We certainly appreciate the steps that have been taken by the Government of the Soviet Union. The resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two countries will, of course, provide an opportunity for a free and full exchange of views, in all matters of mutual interest to Israel and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

On the Middle East, there are some significant differences of opinion between Israel and some of the members of the European Community. We were disappointed over the years, and especially in recent weeks, to see many of the European Community give prominence and recognition to the PLO and 'Arafat. The PLO, well known as a roof organization for many terrorist groups, has been such for the past 25 years. The PLO is responsible for some of the worst atrocities that have been committed since World War II—many of them on the soil or in the skies of Europe—and 'Arafat is its leader for many years and bears direct responsibility for these acts. The advice we are getting from some of the European capitals, to talk to the PLO, may be well-intentioned, but it must be remembered that those countries are not exposed to the mortal dangers that Israel has had to face during the years of its existence.

We are convinced that establishing contacts or, worse yet, extending recognition to the PLO cannot possibly promote peace in the Middle East. What it has done is encourage extremism and further acts of violence. In this context, it is interesting to quote from a statement made by 'Arafat just the other day as quoted in the press this morning, a statement made in Riyadh regarding expressions by Palestinians living in Judaea and Samaria in support of a cessation of violence or possibly a truce in acts of violence in the area in the hope that this might further accommodation, might further the peace process. Mr. 'Arafat said "any Palestinian leader who proposes an end to the intifadah [uprising] exposes himself to the bullets of his own people."

Last year has been a year of strengthened relations between the United States and Israel, relations that are assuming essentially a form of an alliance as is appropriate to two countries that share common ideals, common values and common interests. It is against this background that Israel was disappointed to see the United States abandon its traditional position of not extending any kind of legitimacy to terrorists or terrorist organizations....(The U.S.) initiated talks with representatives of the PLO. I am concerned that this decision might impair our ability to fight the plague of international terrorism. The PLO has been the linchpin now for many years.

(We hope that this will) be a year of close cooperation and coordination between the United States and Israel, a relationship that has been characterized by cooperation and coordination for many years.

More on Address to Foreign Media

TA0301185289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jan 89

["Concluding part" of address by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to the Foreign Press Association at the Jerusalem Hilton on 3 January; videotaped in English with Arabic subtitles; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Menahem Begin and Anwar al-Sadat, the architects of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, concluded in their conversations that the gap between the aspirations, the hopes, the anxieties, and fears of Israelis and Palestinians is too large to permit an immediate permanent settlement, that the road to peace would have to lead first toward an interim arrangement that would permit the closing of this gap, and only thereafter to a permanent settlement for the area.

I believe that their conclusion is valid today, that the first step must be an interim arrangement and that only thereafter will it be possible to arrive at a permanent settlement.

I am confident that the coming year will be one in which Israel will proceed to give added momentum to the Middle East peace process. We shall not lack in courage and we shall not lack in initiative. The people of Israel need peace; all the peoples of the Middle East need peace. Thank you.

Arens Cited on Libyan Chemical Weapons Plant

LD0301174889 Hamburg DPA in German 1629 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Jerusalem/Bonn (DPA)—Israel has, in the words of its new Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, "firm proof" that a German firm was involved in the building of a factory for chemical weapons in Libya. The minister told this to DPA in Jerusalem on Tuesday. Regarding German investigations which had so far produced no evidence of the involvement of German firms—claimed first by the United States—it was stated by U.S. Administration circles in Washington on Tuesday that the U.S. Government adhered to its assertions.

After his first meeting with the foreign press in Israel, Israeli Foreign Minister Arens, told DPA: "We have firm evidence of the involvement of a German firm in the building of a factory for gases in Libya." The Likud politician, who was formerly ambassador to Washington and later defense minister, refused to give names or details when questioned. "Let me save something for my speech in Paris," Arens said, referring to the international conference on banning chemical weapons in Paris over the weekend.

Even after Arens' remarks, FRG security circles insisted that so far there were no indications or suspicious circumstances pointing to any involvement of German firms in the building of a poisonous gas factory in Libya. DPA was told in Bonn that the plant had not yet begun production. Informed sources pointed out that it was not known whether in fact chemical weapons or—as claimed by Libya—only pharmaceuticals are to be manufactured. The Libyans could however "quite easily" for example "change the function" of chemical plant for pesticides and fertilizers.

According to information from DIE WELT the building of the plant in Libya was organized from London by an Iraqi named Ihsan Barbouti. The Iraqi it said, was the head of the firm IBI (Ihsan Barbouti International) based in London. The construction of the factory had been carried out with supplies from firms in at least six industrial countries. An engineering factory in Tokyo, firms in South Korea and Austria, a factory in the Vogtland in the GDR and a factory in Switzerland. Firms in the FRG were also named, the paper states. [passage omitted]

Ministry Denies Arens' Remarks

LD0301201189 Hamburg DPA German 1859 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Jerusalem/Bonn (DPA)—The Israeli Foreign Ministry today denied that new Foreign Minister Moshe Arens spoke of "firm proof" of the involvement of a German firm in the building of a chemical weapons factory in Libya. Earlier, Arens, following his first meeting with the foreign press in Israel, said to DPA's Jerusalem correspondent: "We have firm evidence of the involvement of a German firm in the building of a factory for gases in Libya." [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on Chemical Weapons Plants in Libya

TA0401131289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The chemical weapons epidemic must be stopped by a powerful drive made up of political and other measures. These remarks were made a short while ago by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who addressed the Knesset plenum during a debate on the German aid to the Libyan chemical weapons plant. Netanyahu specified the steps which Israel plans to take in this context:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] The State of Israel is about to take a series of measures. I will not specify the steps that will be taken by the defense establishment, which is following these developments very closely.

The foreign minister's meetings will include talks with the foreign ministers of some states which, according to reports that we are now examining, are allegedly supplying the raw materials. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 4 January adds that in reply to queries in the Knesset, Netanyahu said that "Israel has proof that chemical weapons plants exist not only in Libya, but also in other countries situated very close to us." Netanyahu "refused to name the countries, even when asked if he was referring to Syria."]

AFP Notes Names of Arabs Deported to Lebanon

NC0101153189 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Jan 1 (AFP)—Israeli authorities Sunday expelled 13 Palestinians to southern Lebanon from their homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials here said.

They said that seven of the deportees were from the West Bank, while the others lived in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli authorities issued expulsion orders against the 13 men on August 17 after charging that they belonged to so-called "popular committees" which have been orchestrating the Palestinian uprising that broke out in the West bank and occupied Gaza Strip in December 1987.

Informed sources in Jerusalem identified the seven West Bank residents as 'Abd al-Hamid Baba, aged 25, of Al-Am'ari refugee camp; 'Usman Dawud, 27, of Qalqilyah; Disam Daba'i, 24, of Nabulus; Mas'ud Zu'aytar, 42, of Nabulus; Yusuf 'Awdah, 25, of Balatah camp; Hani Halub, 28, of Tulkarm, and Jamal Ibrahim Faraj, 25, of Al-Duhayshah.

The six Palestinians from the Gaza Strip were identified as 'Abd al-Mun'im Abu 'Ataya, 33, of Gaza City; 'Ayish 'Abd al-'Aziz Abu Sa'adah, 30, of Jabalyah Camp; Sayid Husayn Hasan Barakah, 32, of Bani Suhaylah; 'Abdallah Ayid Abu Samhadanahe, 38, of Gaza City; 'Ata Ahmad Husayn Abu Karsh, 53, of Al-Shati Camp, and Nabil Muhammad Tamus, 24, of Gaza City. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem Mayor Frayj Proposes 1-Year Truce

JN3012121488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says that he called for halting the incidents in the territories for 1 year to make way for intensive diplomatic activity and municipal elections. Qaysar Kabaha telephoned Frayj and asked him about his proposal to halt the incidents in the territories.

[Begin recording] [Frayj] My proposal is as follows: After the UN General Assembly meetings in Geneva, and after the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, I suggest that UN Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar adopt the idea of achieving a full and comprehensive truce between the Palestinians and Israel for 1 year and call the Security Council into an emergency session to discuss this idea and adopt a unanimous resolution on a truce. This will prepare the atmosphere for the beginning of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel under UN supervision.

The current situation is volatile. It raises hatred and does not help the march of the peace process. The Security Council earlier succeeded in convincing Iraq and Iran to accept a truce that ended fighting. Now I am appealing to the UN secretary general to summon the Security Council into session to discuss the subject of a truce between Israel and the Palestinaians with the participation of the PLO, Israel, and all parties so that they may reach agreement on the adoption by the Security Council of a resolution declaring a truce between the Palestinians and Israel.

[Kabaha] Mr Frayj, how do you think this can be implemented on the ground?

[Frayj] If the Security Council adopts a resolution in this regard, it will be responsible for making arrangements to implement this resolution. I only present an initiative. Details regarding the implementation of a full and comprehensive truce between the Palestinians and Israel are left to the Security Council and the parties that will take part in its meeting and proceedings.

[Kabaha] Mr Frayj, can we ask whether you actually sent a letter to Yasir 'Arafat in this respect?

[Frayj] I discussed the subject with the Romanian president when I was in Bucharest 2 weeks ago. I acquainted him with the idea and asked that it be conveyed to Yasir 'Arafat.

[Kabaha] Mr Frayj, happy new year and thank you.

[Frayj] Happy new year and thanks. [end recording]

Withdraws Truce Call

TA0301053989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has withdrawn his call for a 1-year truce in the Palestinian uprising. Frayj said the PLO considered his suggestion premature and he fully respects its decision. The mayor said Israeli military actions, particularly Sunday's deportation of 13 Palestinians, proved Israel had no interest in a truce.

Marking of Tabah Border Nearing Completion

TA0201160689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The IDF stopped using helicopters for marking the border with Egypt following the Air Force helicopter crash last week. The pilot of the helicopter was killed, and three soldiers were injured in that disaster.

Our correspondent in Elat Yehudit Zilberstein reports that the border stones are currently placed with the help of cranes, and use is made of MFO helicopters in places which are impassable to vehicles. Three new border stones were placed today in the Ra's al-Naqb area. The border line was moved 1 km eastward, as far as the Netafim check point. In so doing, Israel has transferred to Egypt an area of about 5 square km. The border terminal was moved from Ra's al-Naqb to the Netafim intersection, and the border fence which will be erected in the next few days will run parallel to Hasayyarim road leading down to Elat. According to plans, border stone No 91 will be placed in Tabah the day after tomorrow, thus ending the border demarcation operation.

Shamir, Arens Discuss Tabah

TA0201174989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Israel is interested in an arrangement with Egypt over the resort locations in Tabah beach and regarding the entrance of Israeli citizens to the area after the border demarcation is completed. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this transpires from a discussion held this afternoon in the Prime Minister's Office with the participation of Mr Shamir, Foreign Minister Arens, and senior officials. The discussion was

held in anticipation of the Inner Cabinet session in which the ministers will discuss Israel's conditions for the negotiations over Tabah.

Israeli and Egyptian officials are scheduled to meet in Paris in the next few days to decide the date for the negotiations which are to commence immediately after the border demarcation is completed according to the arbitrators' decision. Foreign Minister Arens will meet with his Egyptian counterpart Mr 'Abd al-Majid in Paris next Sunday.

Netanyahu: Issue Not Closed

TA0401115889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] No date has been set for the Egyptian president's arrival in Israel. This was stated in the Knesset by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. This issue will be discussed in the upcoming meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers in Paris. Following is an excerpt of Binyamin Netanyahu's statement in the Knesset:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] There is currently no specific date for a visit by the Egyptian president. The foreign minister will meet with the Egyptian foreign minister in Paris in the next few days and will discuss this and other issues.

I would not jump to conclusions, such as those made by Knesset Members Sarid and Tzidon, that the Tabah matter is closed and finished. It is neither closed nor finished yet. We have our demands and our own positions, and they will be discussed by the two countries in a separate framework. I would not rush to make a premature statement on the outcome. In yesterday's press I also read incorrect reports to the effect that such decisions have been made. This is simply untrue. [end recording]

In Tabah itself, border pillar No 91 is being laid at this time. As may be recalled, the arbitration panel in Geneva determined the location of this stone according to the Egyptian stance. At the same time, the Foreign Ministry spokesman made it clear this morning that Israel will continue to hold on to and run the Tabah area until a political settlement is reached with the Egyptians regarding ownership of the hotel and the resort village, as well as granting convenient access to Israeli tourists seeking to continue to visit the site.

Hungarian Official on Resumption of Ties

TA0301170089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Jozsef Gyorke, director of the International Relations Department of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, said in Jerusalem that his country wishes to renew its diplomatic relations with Israel. He said that Hungary had not done so before because it feared the reaction of the Arab countries. He noted, however, that the decision to resume ties at the level of interest departments met with a lot of understanding in the PLO.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Gyorke was speaking at a conference at Hebrew University in Jerusalem on the problems of the Eastern Bloc and the Middle East.

Hungarian Agriculture Minister To Relay 'Message'

TA0301211789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Hungary's agriculture minister arrived in Israel tonight at the invitation of his Israeli counterpart, Avraham Katz-'Oz. The minister said he is carrying a message from his prime minister and the leader of the Budapest Communist Party for Israel's prime minister and foreign minister. The visitor said he is certain that the message will help to improve relations between Israel and Hungary.

Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balselboim reports that Minister Katz-'Oz received the visitor at the Agrexco agricultural marketing company's terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport. The two ministers will try to find areas in which the two countries can cooperate in agriculture, and agreements will be signed at the end of the visit.

Mosad 'Main Bases' Reportedly Moved to FRG

JN0301075889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jan (WAKH)—U.S. diplomatic sources in London have said that the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, set main bases for its West European activities in the FRG early last December, after Britain imposed strict control on Mosad's activities in its territory.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today cited these sources as saying that France has also refused to allow Mosad to work on its territory and imposed strict control on any Israeli moves there and that this has prompted Mosad officials to move to the FRG.

The paper added that the Zionist intelligence presence is characterized by the free movement of Israelis to and from the FRG in accordance with the security agreement signed between Tel Aviv and Bonn a year ago.

Earthquake in North Registers 4 on Richter Scale

TA0301204289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] An earthquake was felt tonight near Bet She'an. The Seismological Department said the tremor registered 4 on the Richter Scale. There were no reports of any damage.

Al-Qasim Responds to Shamir Peace Proposal

JN3112125588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent proposal on the occupied territory as an attempt to reassociate the United States and an Arab side— Palestinian or other—in a process that will not lead to peace despite the fact that this attempt is sugarcoated.

Al-Qasim affirmed to us that the Israeli attempt aims at strengthening the intransigent Israeli stand that does not seek the achievement of a comprehensive, just settlement of the Middle East problem. The attempt also aims at breaking Israel's isolation at a time when the entire world is satisfied with the Palestinian move to establish peace and coexistence under the proposed international conference, Al-Qasim added.

Shamir said recently that he will present a peace initiative within 2 months that gives Egypt the role of mediator in talks with Arab countries and Palestinian parties under the supervision of the two superpowers.

Shamir affirmed he will study the possibility of allowing the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to elect their representatives in the peace talks if they stop the uprising there.

Council of Ministers Approves 1989 State Budget

JN3112173288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Amman—The Council of Ministers has approved in the session it held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at noon today the draft state budget law for fiscal year 1989 which amounts to 1,035,386,000 dinars. The projected revenues in this budget total 913,155,000 dinars; the budget deficit totals 122,231,000 dinars.

The figures contained in this budget indicate that the domestic revenues are estimated to be 547.5 million dinars, including 262 million dinars of tax revenues, 57 million dinars of which are projected income tax revenues, and 155 million dinars representing customs fees revenues.

Foreign financial aid is expected to total 225 million dinars, including 207.5 million dinars which will be Arab aid.

The projected value of loans and economic and technical assistance will total 103 million dinars. The estimated expenditure for defense, public security, and civil defense amounts to 251.52 million dinars. The amounts projected to cover the interest on the domestic and foreign loans and to pay back the installments for these loans come to 209,722,000 dinars.

The expenditures estimated for the economic development services total 154,358,000 dinars. The expenditures earmarked for social services total 118,039,000 dinars. The expenditures projected for the cultural and information services total 14,414,000 dinars. The amounts earmarked for the communication and transportation services come to 30,722,000 dinars.

Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah delivered the state budget speech for the year 1989 which focused on the importance of the wide-ranging orientation contained in the important speech delivered by His Majesty King Husayn at the comprehensive development conference which was held at the end of November—the speech which has taken the form of a national development charter for a new phase ending at the end of this century.

'Awdah added that the speech centered on the positive aspects we are enjoying—positive aspects which must be employed as the springboard for confronting the challenges posed by the nineties and implementing the new approach for the sake of achieving the objectives of the forthcoming phase represented by building the pursued economy, abandoning all forms of wasteful spending, realizing an equilibrium between the population and resources, caring for the land and natural resources, building the defense capabilities of our Armed Forces, rearranging the roles of both the public and private sectors, and continuing the efforts to achieve inter-Arab economic integration. After reviewing past years' economic developments regionally and internationally and the reflection of this on our economic situation, Dr Hanna 'Awdah praised the great achievements Jordan has made during the past period in all economic and social sectors, particularly in building the infrastructure of national economy, which, in its economic dimension, has come to constitute the main bases for the versatile investment and production, and which, in its social dimension, has created a qualitative move and a better life for all citizens.

Among the economic measures were the cancellation of the licensing in advance for investments in agriculture and industry, providing protective customs for locally-produced industrial commodities, amending the law of encouraging investment, studying the best means of encouraging exports, and the issuance of the new companies' law which was accompanied by the developments in the Kingdom during the past 20 years.

In the monetary field, the government adopted the method of restricted flotation to fix the price of the Jordanian dinar's exchange to encourage exports, tourism, savings, and investments, to float interest rates on current accounts, and to organize the banking market and dealing with banknotes and credit facilities.

However, in the field of financial measures, steps were taken to cut and rationalize public spending, to amend customs fees to reinforce the competitive ability of local production, to exempt all capital productive commodities of custom fees and taxes with the objective of encouraging investment, to subjugate imports that are similar to local products to customs duty to support local industries, and to ban the importation of several luxury commodities until the end of 1989.

In the state budget speech, Dr Hanna 'Awdah stressed the government's concern about continuing the course of the base of production, entrenching the concept of saving, encouraging investment, and attracting Arab capital.

The minister affirmed that as a result of the government's efforts and its recent measures, the deficit will drop by 45 percent in 1989 compared with 1988.

Concluding the state budget speech, the finance minister expressed great hope that the one Jordanian family will be able to acclimatize quickly and deal with the new developments of this stage and that the Jordanian citizen will respond to the new approaches and enrich them with the means of success and continuation under the leader of our march and the builder of the homeland, His Majesty King Husayn.

AL-RA'Y Columnist Urges Solidarity With Libya

JN0401115589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Jan 89 p 18

["I say a Word" column: "World Policeman" by 'Abd al-Rahim 'Umar]

[Text] The reports on the movements of the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean these days have occupied a prominent place in the world media. This is because these movements are linked with the United States' declaration that it intends to take military action against what it called a chemical weapons factory in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The United States has announced that this factory is the biggest of its kind in the Third World. It has specified the factory's production capacity and products in precise detail. It has also announced that six international companies, including a West German firm, have helped in its construction.

The United States then declared on the basis of all this information that the existence of this factory in the Libyan Jamahiriyah constitutes a danger to the world and its security.

Therefore, it has decided to destroy that factory to prevent its dangerous product from reaching terrorists, as the Amercans said.

Libya has denied possessing such a factory and asserted it will participate in the conference to be held soon in France to discuss the dangers emanating from the use of chemical weapons.

Libya has also drawn attention to the fact that the factory to which the U.S. statements refer is only a fertilizer plant. Also, Libya has announced its readiness to permit an international team to visit the factory and the West German authorities have declared that so far they have been unable to find the name of the German company which allegedly helped to build the factory.

However, the United States still insists that the factory manufactures chemical weapons and the manifestations of military preparedness to attack Libyan territories continue to increase daily.

We are wondering, as others are wondering, about the quarter which appointed the United States as policeman imposing its own order on the world. Why did the United States remain silent and in fact help Israel to produce cluster bombs and nerve gas bombs, which the Israelis used to shell Beirut in 1982, without showing any sign of unease and certainly without taking any measures against Israel?

It was U.S. technology which enabled Israel to manufacture these weapons and even to use them. It was this technology also which enabled Israel to manufacture nuclear weapons and to continue to threaten to use them against the Arabs.

U.S. aggression on Libya is an aggression on an Arab country and the Arabs everywhere must face it with condemnation and rejection. They should stand on the side of fraternal Arab Libya, which is facing repeated U.S. aggressions.

The Arabs must declare their solidarity with Libya while it is being threatened and exposed to aggression and when it replies to this aggression.

Columnist on 'Tactical U.S. Move' on PLO

JN1712103888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Dec 88 p 22

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Dialogue, Tactics, and Cards"]

[Text] Washington's acceptance of holding a dialogue with the PLO is not a historic decision and we must examine very thoroughly what we say. The Americans have all the time been talking with the PLO behind closed doors. They have also all the time been talking with the Arab states behind open doors. However, the U.S. decisionmaking did not escape the circle of Israeli strategic objectives.

Dialogue with the PLO is a tactical U.S. move. As long as Washington adheres to the principle that the future of the West Bank and Gaza must be determined through negotiations, this means the Palestinians have no right to free self-determination; that all the parties to the dispute, including Israel and the United States, will participate in this self-determination; and that any future negotiations—regarding which no reference to an international conference was made by Washington—will be negotiations based on Resolutions 242 and 338, not seeking to implement them.

We must examine thoroughly what we say. We have reached the red line and "stripped" enough. The PLO has adhered to the principle of two states in Palestine. This is a good and essential start. However, the so-called peace process has an exhausting and long way to go. This necessitates sticking to many cards.

Washington, which adheres to Israel's security and prosperity as a permanent condition for having any role in this peace process, will not be out of the Israeli game started by Shim'on Peres the day before yesterday when he declared a Labor Party project calling for free elections in the West Bank and Gaza to produce representatives for the Palestinian people to embark immediately on negotiations with Israel without any role for the diaspora Palestinians, an international conference, or other Arab parties whose territories have been occupied.

The dialogue that Washington accepted to hold with the PLO is a limited step which must not be overvalued. The Plestinians have two cards in hand for political action. These cards are the uprising in the occupied territories and the unity of the Palestinian forces as manifested at the Algiers PNC session on the one hand and Soviet support on the other.

These two cards, regrettably, are the only ones owned by the Palestinians. If the current Arab move can develop a solid entity with unified objectives and capable of introducing a new force added to the uprising, a unified Palestinian action, and the Soviet support, the strategic balance of forces will be even and Europe will be more capable of playing the required role between Washington and Moscow.

Shim'on Peres fears that Israel will be under a heavy blockade. We fear we will believe that the U.S. tactic is a strategy and we fear we will reach the conviction that all the cards of the game are in the hand of America.

Libyan Ambassador Comments on Downing of Planes

NC0401141889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] 'Ashur al-Furtas, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, has commented on the U.S. act of piracy. He said that this assault is part of a campaign of preparation for an expected real aggression.

He pointed out that this new attack resembles the events of 2 years ago when U.S. aircraft downed two Libyan planes over Libyan territorial waters.

All the signs indicate that the true mission of the U.S. fleet which has been dispatched to the Mediterranean has now become clear through this aggression, Al-Furtas asserted.

Syrians Said Planning Killings of Amal, Fatah

NC0301152989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Security sources in Sidon have disclosed that Syrian security organs are planning to assassinate some leading figures in Amal and the Fatah Movement in the South in the coming stage. The sources told the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY that this scheme is designed to abort the recent Amal-Fatah truce agreement.

Syrians Take Security Measures in W. Beirut

NC0301094489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Syrian troops have taken strict security measures and set up fixed and mobile roadblocks in West Beirut, specifically in the vicinity of the Iranian Chancellery and the residence of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri.

According to sources in West Beirut, tension still prevails between Hizballah and the Amal Movement amid fears of extending the fighting to the western sector of the capital.

More on Amal, Hizballah Clashes in South, Suburb

NC0301110789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes have been raging between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah for the past hour. The sound of explosions is being heard in Sidon city.

Meanwhile, Amal and Hizballah gunmen are exchanging machinegun fire in Al-Musharrafiyah and the vicinity of Mar Mikha'il Church and the Ministry of Water Resources in the southern suburb. Large numbers of people are evacuating the suburb.

Further on Fighting

NC0301152889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes resumed this afternoon between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb and, earlier, in Iqlim al-Tuffah, in the South, and, specifically, in 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh. The clashes, which resumed following a period of guarded calm in the southern suburb, were concentrated on Al-Hajjaj Street. Some 82-mm shells also fell at 1545.

Hizballah sources said that its positions on Jabal Safi came under shellfire from Al-Bisariyah, Humin, 'Azzah, Zifta, and Kafr Fila. Amal Movement sources disclosed that some pockets of Hizballah fighters in Al-Luwayzah and on the 'Ayn Bu Siwar hills are continuing to resist.

'Guarded Calm' Following Clashes

NC0301202389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Guarded calm has been prevailing in the areas of Al-Shiyah and on Al-Hajjaj Street in the southern suburb since this evening. No security developments have been reported in Iqlim al-Tuffah in southern Lebanon, apart from intermittent bursts of gunfire early this evening.

AFP has reported that hundreds of southern suburb residents have fled their homes, taking advantage of the calm that prevailed in the areas of tension today.

'Failed' Amal Attacks Noted

NC0401073689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from the South, the Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi continued to come under violent and concentrated artillery shelling from positions held by Amal Movement gunmen until a late hour last night. The shelling came in the wake of several failed attempts by Amal gunmen to occupy the strongholds of the resistance. Field artillery, Grad missiles, and 107-mm guns were used in the attacks.

A responsible source in the Islamic resistance has denied Amal claims that the Bu Siwar township had fallen, pointing out that the movement had launched several attacks and bombarded the mujahidin's positions. However, the source adds, the Amal gunmen failed to advance. These claims, the source says, aimed to only boost Amal's low morale resulting from the failure to advance.

Fighting 'Raging' in South

NC0401100789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] According to security reports from the South, clashes are currently raging between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the areas of 'Ayn ni Siwar,

Al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi. The reports added that the Amal Movement is bombarding the Hizballah positions from Sarba, Humin, and Kafr Milki.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are taking place between the two sides in the southern suburb, despite the redeployment of the Syrian occupation forces in some areas today on the pretext of establishing security there.

More on Fighting in South

NC0401133789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah were resumed in Iqlim al-Tuffah as of midday today. The sound of shelling could be heard in Sidon. Fighting was concentrated between Amal positions in Kafr Killa and Sarba, and Hizballah positions in Al-Nabi Safi and Al-Luwayzah. Amal artillery in Sarba, Humin al-Fawqa, and Kafr Milki bombarded Hizballah positions.

The fighting intensified in the afternoon and there were artillery exchanges on the Jba'-Jarju'-Arab Salim-'Ayn bu Siwar-Kafr Hatta-Kafr Milki front. Amal fighters were reported to have advanced on Hizballah positions near Jba'. According to preliminary reports, six Amal members and two Hizballah fighters have sustained injuries.

An Amal source said that cease-fire agreements in the southern suburb are not binding on Amal in the south. The source stressed that the battle in Iqlim al-Tuffah will continue until Hizballah positions there are eliminated.

The situation in the southern suburb remains tense, although the fighting has subsided. The two parties to the conflict are exploiting the lull to reinforce their positions. Meanwhile, suburb residents continue evacuating their homes leaving for some West Beirut areas, the South, and Al-Biqa'.

Agreement Said Reached on Syrian Redeployment

NC0301173989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] A meeting was held at the headquarters of the Syrian security detachment in Al-Ghubayrah [in Beirut's southern suburb] this afternoon. The conferees included the representatives of the security committee, although the Amal Movement's representative withdrew.

Sources close to the Syrian occupation forces reported that agreement was reached on a plan providing for the redeployment of Syrian units in the southern suburb not later than next Thursday morning [5 January]. Hizballah sources report, however, that Amal seeks to use this Syrian redeployment plan to regain positions it had lost in the suburb earlier.

Syrians Redeploy in Southern Suburb 4 Jan

NC0401091889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Amal and Hizballah are currently exchanging machinegun fire from their positions in Jba', Sarba, 'Ayn Qana, and 'Ayn bu Siwar in the South. Meanwhile, an extremely guarded calm prevails in the southern suburb.

The Syrian occupation forces were redeployed in some areas in the southern suburb today, despite the numerous reservations made by the Hizballah representative in the security committee. Hizballah expressed fears that the redeployment would be bound to enable the Amal Movement to regain its previous positions. The redeployment process involves the areas of Rawdat al-Shahidayn, Al-Ghubayrah, Al-Musharrafiyah, Al-Hajjaj, Al-Shiyah, Hayy Mu'awwad, and Mar Mikha'il.

In the South, REUTER cites an Amal Movement spokesman as saying that the fighting will not stop until the movement has captured all the Hizballah positions.

Fadlallah on Solution, U.S.-Palestinian Talks

NC0401081789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] In an interview with the press yesterday, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah expressed his belief that solving the Lebanese problem is out of the question this year and the next, and noted that this problem will only be resolved after the Palestinian problem has been settled.

Fadlallah expects the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to take a long time before the two sides begin to talk seriously about the international conference for settling the problem. He noted that the Lebanese are capable of aborting many international schemes, including the American ones, if they show some flexibility among themselves.

13 Palestinian Deportees Arrive in Sidon

NC0301072789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The 13 Palestinians who were deported by Israel from the West Bank and Gaza sector on Sunday arrived in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the Sidon suburbs last night. The deportees will hold a press conference today to speak about the circumstances of their deportation.

Nine deportees said they were 'Arafat followers, one said he was a PFLP member, another said that he belonged to the Palestinian Communist Party, another said that he belonged to the Islamic Jihad, and the last said that he was a trade unionist.

Complaints Against Israel To Be Lodged With UN

NC0301132189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry sent a cable to Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, at noon today. The cable requests Fakhuri to lodge an urgent complaint with the Security Council protesting Israel's deportation of 13 Palestinians to Lebanon, while reserving Lebanon's right to call on the Security Council to convene.

The cable also requests the Lebanese delegate to exert efforts with the competent circles to prevent Israel from carrying out its intention of deporting 12 other Palestinians to Lebanon.

The cable points out that the deportation constitutes a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial sanctity. It is also a defiance and disregard of the UN General Assembly's resolutions and Security Council Resolution 607 of 1982, which requests Israel not to deport Palestinian civilians, the cable says, going on to note that Lebanon has received information that Israel intends to deport 12 more Palestinians to Lebanon later.

The Foreign Ministry has also sent a cable to Ambassador Salim Naffa', Lebanon's delegate to the UN organizations in Geneva, saying:

The Israeli occupation forces are still holding Lebanese citizen Suha Bisharah. Israeli television said last night that Antoine Lahd will put her on trial soon. We reaffirm our request for the intervention of the competent UN circles to exert pressure on Israel to release Citizen Bisharah and hand her over to the International Red Cross, which will, in turn, hand her over to the legitimate Lebanese authorities.

Please conduct intensified contacts with the representatives of the Security Council's permanent member states and exert utmost efforts to persuade them to exert pressure on Israel and prevent it from handing Citizen Bisharah over to Lahd.

Israel has no international legal justification or entitlement to arrest Citizen Bisharah, question, or try her, considering that the incident [attempt on Lahd's life] took place on Lebanese territory and involved two Lebanese citizens. Bisharah's life will be in danger if she is handed over to Lahd.

The Lebanese Government, which is extremely concerned for Suha Bisharah's life, holds the Israeli occupation forces fully responsible for her safety. It demands that they free her and hand her over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

UN Press Chairman Calls for Hostages' Release

NC0301191689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Walid Murani, chairman of the Newsmen's Association at the United Nations, today addressed an appeal to the kidnappers of the hostages in Lebanon to release them.

At a news conference he held at the offices of the editors association [in Beirut] today, he affirmed that the issue of the hostages in Lebanon in general, and the issue of the journalist hostages in particular, is a fundamental matter that prompted him to come to Lebanon to again raise it before key figures and the media.

Murani explained that he had been asked to find out the fate of journalist Alec Collect, who was kidnapped in Lebanon approximately 4 years ago. He noted that efforts are currently being made to free Terry Anderson.

Palestine Broadcast Blames Pan Am Crash on Mosad

JN0101191889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Palestine broadcast—from "Spotlights" feature]

[Text] Brother strugglers: The U.S. Administration still searches for some party to accuse of the U.S. airliner's crash over Britain last week, particularly after investigators have reached the conclusion that a high technology explosion occurred on the airliner.

If the Americans contemplate for awhile the party that may have done this, then both reason and logic cannot reach a wrong conclusion. The perpetrator must be the Zionist Mosad, and this deed was carried out on the instructions of Shamir's government.

Since the first moments after the accident, the Zionists have been providing media information designed to keep themselves from falling under suspicion, such as the attempt to accuse other parties or talk about the presence of many Jewish passengers aboard the airliner.

However, was the ship "Exodus," which the Zionist gangs had blown up off the port of Haifa during the British occupation of Palestine, not carrying Jews? Hence, Jews are worth nothing to the Zionist racists whenever their interests require that Jews be sacrificed. Moreover, no one can rule out the presence of Arab passengers aboard the U.S. airliner that faced the disaster.

A question may be posed: What is the Mosad's interest? The answer is crystal clear: The reasons include backing Washington's campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, urging Washington to support the aggressive adventures Israel is considering, and replying to Washington's public criticism of Israel's repeated aggression against Lebanon.

The Mosad's fingerprint regarding the perpetration of this terrorist crime for strong political motives, as we have said, are clear through the high technology about which the Americans talked. High technology provided by the Americans to Israel can make Americans among its victims. This had happened in 1967, when the Israelis sank the U.S. espionage ship "Liberty," which was placing its high technology at the service of Zionist aggression.

The racist Zionist mentality which blew up the ship "Exodus" with Jewish immigrants aboard and which also blew up the U.S. ship "Liberty" off Sinai is the same mentality which blew up the Pan Am civilian plane. The matter must have been exactly like this. Hence, the Americans should follow this lead if they want to discover the truth.

Criticizes U.S. Naval Moves

JN0301124589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Palestine broadcast: Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ronald Reagan is moving U.S. fleets to the eastern Mediterranean in search of a victim after it has become clear that a premeditated crime was behind the Pan Am airliner disaster.

Although wisdom says one should use his mind before his hand—and Reagan has admitted that his agencies have not yet discovered who committed that tragic crime—it is shameful for the U.S. President to use his hand haphazardly when he can use it at any time after he discovers the truth. But the U.S. Administration's misconduct always overshadows its correct conduct and blind bias toward the Zionists has made this administration fumble in all directions.

One does not need to think too much to realize that the U.S. airliner disaster was a planned Israeli act similar to the sinking of the ship carrying Jewish immigrants off the coast of Haifa, the assassination of Count Bernadotte, and the destruction of the U.S. spy ship "Liberty". The day will come when the Zionist leaders will write in their autobiographies their reasons for deciding to blow up the U.S. airliner. They will say that they had to blow it up to drive a wedge between Washington and the Arabs by arranging this ugly crime of blowing up the U.S. airliner and accusing Arab elements of planning that ugly crime.

This crime is not in the interest of any Arab or Palestinian party. The Palestinian factions, regardless of their different trends and views on the settlement, realize that any positive change in Washington's policy and the need to solve the Middle East problem is in the interest of the Arabs and against the interest of the Zionists.

Therefore, it is inconceivable for the Arabs to reward Washington for a positive change, however slight, in its political stand toward their cause by punishing it in an immoral and inhumane manner. This can only be done by those who are actually harmed by Washington's decision and who fear its future development; namely, the Zionists.

U.S. officials' tolerance toward the Zionists after the exposure of their roles in previous crimes such as the assassination of Count Bernadotte, the sinking of the "Liberty", and spying on U.S. national security—a case which has not yet been solved—and dealing with people like Shamir despite their exposed criminal roles as veteran terrorists encourages the Zionists to perpetrate more crimes for certian political motives.

The incident of the Pan Am airliner took place within the same context. It was carried out by Mosad in accordance with a decision by Shamir's government.

Will the United States be indignant and punish its spoiled Zionist child or will it overlook its new crime and let it suck American blood and gnaw American flesh just as it let it suck Arab blood and gnaw Arab flesh?

Trade Unions Condemn U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya
JN0201091288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] A joint meeting was held in Damascus this evening between the general secretariat of the International Confederation of the Arab Trade Unions and the Arab Professional Unions. The escalated situation in the Arab region in light of the U.S. threats to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, paving the way for a large-scale military aggression against it, was discussed during the meeting.

The conferees denounced the mounting U.S. military buildup and the mobilization movement during the past 2 days of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean.

The conferees called for a common Arab stand on the side of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and for the adoption of firm measures against U.S. interests, designs, and programs, which are aimed at subduing pan-Arab and progressive forces and regimes as well as besieging the heroic and brave uprising led by our kinfolk in occupied Palestine and which have left their fingerprints on more than one level.

Al-Ahmar Receives Iraqi Opposition Leader
JN0301172889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jan (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Party, here today.

During the meeting, the talks centered on developments in the Arab region, especially the fascist Saddam regime's practices against the masses, its insistence on liquidating the Iraqi strugglers, its repressive and criminal methods, and ways to unify the efforts to confront these methods in order to restore the Iraqi people's role in the pan-Arab struggle and in confronting the Zionist enemy.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry on U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya

LD3112193188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman considers the U.S. accusations about the setting up of a chemical weapons factory in Libya to be an extensive conspiracy against the Islamic country of Libya and an excuse for a military aggression against the country. The Foreign Ministry expresses its deep concern about this accusation. The United States has various types of chemical weapons and many factories and installations manufacturing mass destruction weapons and has not reacted to the protests of peace-loving forces and international forums about these weapons. How can the United States accuse Libya of producing chemical weapons?

The Libyan Government rejects these accusations, considering them to be baseless, and has expressed its total adherence to all international norms and regulations and those treaties prohibiting the use and production of chemical and biological arms. Libya has declared its active participation in the Paris conference on this matter.

If the Pentagon's attack on Libya is correct this time using the excuse of Libya's production of chemical weapons, then its military attack on Libya on 14 April 1987 was against all international regulations and norms. The reason for the United States' position is clear: The United States wants to dictate its policy, forcefully, to a number of countries.

The Republic of Afghanistan states that any type of action by the Reagan administration using any excuse to threaten the independent country of Libya will not only be a serious danger to Libya's security and the continent of Africa, but it will also pose a great danger to the world. The White House leaders should appreciate the current realities and the international desire for peace and it should refrain from a policy of threats against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. This policy blatantly contravenes all current international norms and Article 51 of the UN Charter and the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Najibullah on 'Important Current Issues'

LD0101203089 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Speech by President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I consider it necessary, as the president of Afghanistan, to discuss with you, dear compatriots, a number of the vital and important current issues of our country. I will try in this speech and in future speeches to inform you about the basic development of the issues connected in and around the country and about the measures and steps taken by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan with regard to them.

Developments and events since the signing of the Geneva accords indicate that the other side has no interest in observing its commitments. Not only did the armed interference against Afghanistn not cease, but it took completely broader dimensions. The other side is breaking its promise at a time when Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are fulfilling all their commitments with honesty and good will. As you know, in accordance with the timetable mentioned in the Geneva accords, 50 percent of the Soviet military contingent had returned home as of 15 August 1988. Unfortunately, there is still no sign of reduced interference. Simultaneously with constant efforts to ensure a complete and serious observation of the Geneva accords, we have tried, using all the means and possible ways, to prepare the ground for a dialogue and talks with the personalities, organizations, and various oppositions groups in and out of Afghanistan in order to reach reconciliation and compromise among Afghans.

The process of the talks of the official authorities of the Soviet Union with the representatives of the seven-party alliance, which began in Islamabad, resulted in talks with a number of the leaders of this alliance in Al- Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. In these talks, which were organized as a result of joint efforts by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, other countries, and the United Nations, the common Afghan-Soviet stands were discussed. The fulfillment of these talks and agreement on their continuation, is on its own a noteworthy gain. Similarly, we believe that a number of the personalities of our country's contemporary history could play a worthy and useful role in order to prevent the continuing bloodshed among Afghans.

We have encouraged these personalities to take an active part in the peace issues and have prepared the necessary ground for their activities. It was based on such an assessment that we recommended the fulfillment of talks between his excellency Yuliy Vorontsov and Afghanistan's former king in Rome. His Excellency Vorontsov presented a detailed report to me at the conclusion of this meeting. Afghanistan and the Soviet Union consider the continuation of these contacts useful. We contemplate ensuring the process of such contacts with the council of the alliance stationed in Iran. One should not ignore the role that the council of the alliance stationed in Iran could play in reaching a permanent and complete solution.

At present the attention of our people and the world is focused on Islamabad, where representatives of the Soviet Union are due to talk with Pakistani authorities. These diplomatic activities take place within the framework of a harmonized and agreed policy between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Since the Soviet Union is one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords, it therefore plays its role and part to ensure

peace and end war by fulfilling such political and diplomatic activities. The United States, as another guarantor, should also fulfill its responsibility in this direction on principle.

Time is passing quickly, and every day the blood of our innocent people is being shed in this meaningless war. It is the duty of each patriotic Afghan not to allow opportunities to be wasted. With a full feeling of responsibility one should use any type of effort to silence forever the deafening sounds of missiles, explosions, and guns in our territory. Our suffering people start to remedy the wounds of this destructive war.

Only 2 days ago we ordered all our Armed Forces units and companies to cease combat operations starting from today and not to open fire on the opposition. We are awaiting its outcome. If the opposition agrees to this cease-fire and to avoid the combat operations against the peace-loving people and the units and companies of the Armed Forces, a permanent cease-fire will continue as a preface for peace.

All the responsibility for rejecting the cease-fire will rest on those who do not agree with this proposal. They are hysterical people, guilty of continuing war and bloodshed and victimizing and destroying the people. We have offered many proposals and plans to the other side, which on the one hand shows our flexibility and mild attitude, and on the other opens the path to begin talks and dialogues.

We are ready to meet with all opposition and interested forces in the cause of peace, in a league for the preparation of peace, as a first step toward understanding and compromise. We hope that this league will be able to defrost the ice that has been formed during the last 10 years and prepare the ground to reach agreement in all areas. We are ready to talk and discuss this proposal or any other logical and realistic plan, with the opposition anywhere, any time, and at any appropriate level for the sake of homeland, people, and future of the country.

I would say that a number of personalities and circles still stick to the unrealistic idea and thought that if the present state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the PDPA leave the political stage of the country, peace will be restored and Afghanistan's problems will be solved, but it is not so. These persons and circles are completely mistaken. In the case of the present Government of the Republic of Afghanistan giving up power, for a long time bloodshed and war will begin among the opposition groups due to the severe hostilities and disputes that exist among the opposition itself, and no one conceals them, before one of the groups takes over. As a result of such bloodshed, not only the opposition groups would burn in their flames, but unfortunately, the people of Afghanistan as a whole would pay a heavy price for such a war. We believe under the present situation and conditions, the most important question is that how all personalities, organizations, and groups could, in joint efforts, put an end to war and fratricide at the first step and serve Afghanistan, this proud and common home of ours, and its people. This question refers not only to politicians, social personalities, and other political thinkers, but to all the Afghans whose normal life has been disrupted as a result of the 10 years of war and are faced with the misfortunes and calamity of war. Using the experiences of our fathers, forefathers, and our ancestors, and by analyzing and assessing the politico-military situation in the country, it is possible—using a responsible approach regarding the future of our country—to create an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation for all Afghans. If it were not due to self-interest, self-glorification, and arrogance, prejudices and short-sightedness and some people's complexes, our compatriots would have achieved great successes in this way long ago, and a completely peaceful situation would have reigned in our country before now. The enemies of peace and tranquillity should be left to sit and watch and to obtain political interest as a result of killing the Afghans; it should not be permissable for our national unity and the destiny of the Afghans to be played with further.

Dear compatriots, pursuing the policy of national reconciliation and the persistent and goal-oriented effort toward the solution of questions by political means, in no way means that the Armed Forces will deviate from its mission to defend the people's peaceful life and to maintain order and discipline so the people may organize the affairs of their daily life. With all power and possibility, we will prevent the highway robbery by the armed opposition groups which have created problems in our people's life and have made them face economic shortages. If the extremists and enemies of peace insist on intensifying war and bloodshed, in response to such stubborness, we have no alternative but to give them an appropriate reply. To those who only know the language of force, we will reply in kind. It is possible that in the coming months the extremists will create problems and difficulties for our people. What should be done? Should one keep silent before the armed extremist highway robbers? No indeed. We intend to confront such difficulties decisively and manfully and to overcome them.

We believe that in this critical phase of their history, the Afghans will succeed in the way of peace through the unity of will and action, for maintaining their national interests, with the political forces who take part in this vital matter. We are trying to find and pursue a political and peaceful solution. You, too, dear compatriots, have witnessed and experienced the results and sorrows of the extremists' resorting to force in some provinces of the country. As a result of the temporary sway of the extremists in Konduz, Konar and Bamina, the people have learned bitter experiences and know that the extremists have no program, but murder and plunder for our people. Our people's heroic defense of their cities in Laghman, Zabol, Qandahar and Nangarhar were due to these experiences. They were a small token of the whole.

Let us take Konar as an example: By capturing this province, what did the extremists bring to the people and

public property? They turned everything into dust. Public or personal property that was negotiable was looted, and what they could not use they set on fire. They martyred a number under various pretexts and forced the others out of their homes. This was a small example of what the temporary victory of the so-called jihad of the extremists brought as a gift to our people, and such will be the prospects of their victories which they have promised in some other parts of the country.

The courageous and forward-looking people of Laghman learned good lessons from their neighbors in Konar. It was not without reason that the people of Laghman took the side of the Armed Forces during the great attack by the extremists, which was recently launched against Mehtarlam city. The people courageously defended their city, honor, and children with stones and sticks. They faced the extremists with disgraceful defeat. Now the Laghman example has been maintained in other parts of the country, and increasing masses of the people actively stand on the side of their self-sacrificing Armed Forces to defend themselves and their homes.

Afghan patriots, the 7 months since the signing of the Geneva accords have shown that the heroic Afghan people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are capable of independently standing on their feet. The hollow claims by the extremist opposition that with the beginning of the soviet withdrawal cities and provinces would immediately fall to them one after the other have proven false. The compatriots saw with their own eyes that despite the broad intervention from abroad our armed forces were able, as a whole, to defend state sovereignty.

Based on the responsibility that we have before our people and the international community, we have met our pledges in connection with the withdrawal of the units of the Soviet Union despite the negation of these pledges by the other side. Henceforth too, relying on the will of the Afghan people and with the help of Almighty God, we will meet our pledges in connection with the withdrawal of the remaining Soviet forces.

The propaganda units of the opposition and their backers these days once again have begun the same boasting and baselesss predictions concerning the consequences of the withdrawal of the remaining units of the Soviet Union, that the republican regime of Afghanistan would not remain after the Soviet withdrawal. This hue and cry by the opposition is in fact to conceal their anxiety and lack of confidence in their military victory. They know that after the Soviet withdrawal they will not achieve victory and will lose their credibility and dignity before the people and the international community. It is due to this that they have unleashed such a hollow hue and cry which is only for propaganda purposes.

The Republic of Afghanistan, from the beginning of the policy of national reconciliation, has met all the pledges that were made before its people and the international community. Despite the oppposition's blatant violations of the Geneva accords, it has implemented and is implementing the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. However, no one should doubt that we will implement one other thing, too; that is, if the opposition still continues its stubbornness and pursues a military solution, it will receive such a lesson that it will very soon realize the futility of choosing this path. In that event, the responsibility of the consequences of bloodshed will rest on their shoulders because we have offered peace. Relying on Almightly God and the backing of our faithful and Muslim people, we will decisively defend the honor of our homeland, people, and reconciliation. We are undoubtedly confident of the victory of the heroic and peace-loving people of Afghanistan. With support of talks in the near future between His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov and the opposition, we once again invite the forces of opposition to realistically and responsibly approach the future of Afghanistan, the homeland for which we, in this critical historical juncture of the country, have common and similar responsibility. Thank you for your attention. Success comes from God.

Kabul Commander on Security, Political Situation

LD0301224589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan, we decided to have a conversation with Major General Mohammad Afzal Lodin, commander of the city of Kabul garrison, about the politico-military situation of Afghanistan. We draw your attention to this conversation:

[Interviewer] Esteemed Maj Gen Mohammad Afzal Lodin, what is your opinion about the country's politico-military situation, while the extremists are trying to conduct the strategy of the occupation of some cities and bringing the armed forces under pressure?

[Lodin] First of all I will explain the political situation in the country. A campaign for the political solution to the situation in the country has been going on for a long time. For instance, you know that the national reconciliation policy, the humanitarian policy, which is desired by all Afghan people and the people of the world, and similary the proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan in the United Nations and the Geneva agreements—which have been persistently been enforced by both the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union—have been declared. It was on these grounds that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic Afghanistan, declared a cease-fire. The announcement by esteemed Najibullah, the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan, is aimed at creating a peaceful situation in Afghanistan. On the military situation, you know well that Afghanistan has powerful, stable, and formidable Armed Forces. I can give some examples of their superiority. I personally took part in some operations in Qandahar, Nangarhar, and Konduz. I saw with my own eyes the strength of the Armed Forces and the defeat of the extremists. I witnessed the successes

of our Armed Forces. Note, as well, that the resistance of our people, party, and Armed Forces in Laghman and Zabol deserve appreciation. I can therefore tell you the enemy, i.e., the extremists will not have the strength to capture the stratgically important area even if they try to do or desire so. Now our Armed Forces have obtained further strength because despite the fact that there are no Soviet forces in 25 provinces of the country, our Armed Forces heroically and with Afghan gallantry defend the provinces.

[Interviewer] Thank you. How do you assess the security situation in the city of Kabul? The opposition wanted to launch a big attack on the city but failed. Will they be able to disrupt the city's security situation?

[Lodin] I will answer your question in this way: Overall calm prevails in Kabul. This implies that security is maintained in Kabul. What I can add to this is that the extremist have no other possibility in the city of Kabul apart from sneak attacks with long-range rockets, which causes the martyrdom of children and women and innocent people of Kabul.

By launching these sneak attacks with their long-range rockets they reveal their dirty faces to the people of Afghanistan, especially to the people of Kabul. Today our Armed Forces are equipped with modern arms which can be used against targets not only in Kabul but also in remote areas whence attempts to disrupt the peaceful life of the city of Kabul or our province could be made.

[Interviewer] You spoke of the advanced and modern arms. tell me what kind of weapons these are and what impact do they have on the present fighting? Will they not intensify the fighting, taking into account ther present peace process?

[Lodin] I will tell you that these were weapons more powerful than our previous arms. Some time ago you saw them demonstrated by the Armed Forces personnel who had received training in their use. Let us talk about the relations between the subject of peace and these weapons. Our arms are defensive weapons. We pursue defense tactics. We always defend. But if someone tries to bother our fellow citizens we will take action to silence them for good. Therefore, our military doctrine is a defensive one.

[Interviewer] What is your opinion of the morale of the Armed Forces personnel?

[Lodin] That is a good question. As a veteran Army officer I will describe it this way: If the morale of our Armed Forces had not been high, they would not have defended their dear country, Afghanistan, over the past 10 years. If their morale had not been high, we would not have thousands of martyres and heroes. Therefore, our Armed Forces are always ready, with a high morale, to defend their country and to absolve their country from many years of fighting. This, in its own right, shows the high morale of our Armed Forces.

[Interviewer] Thank you. If needed will you have more forces available for the defense of the city of Kabul?

[Lodin] Our Armed Forces have a large number of reservists. But a well-organized and gallant force, the units of special guard, has been set up within the frameword of the Armed Forces. The special guard units have bravely fought across the country and have returned heroically. This is the reserve force of the city of Kabul, and it is a highly reliable force.

[Interviewer] Esteemed Lodin, you must have heard about the declaration of the Republic of Afghanistan. Could you please shed light on it?

[Lodin] Esteemed Najibullah's statement has been listened to and watched through radio and television, not only by me but also by all our compatriots. The statement was comprehensive. It said that we would offer any way of solution that leads to peace, and we have done so. But if the enemy, or the extremists, do not want to approach us on the basis of these statements of ours, we will inflict such blows on them, as esteemed najibullah, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan said, the likes of which they have never seen.

[Interviewer] Thank you, Maj Gen Mohammad Afzal Lodin, commander of the city of Kabul garrison.

Defense Minister on Military Preparedness

AU0401095589 Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian 20 Dec 88 pp 55-57

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Shahnawaz Tanai, minister of national defense, by Miroslav Lazanski: "We Can Cope Without the Soviets"—date and place not given]

[Text] Kabul (from DANAS special correspondent)—The big European-style yellow building, the Dar ul Aman Palace of the former King Ammanullah, is, together with the Presidential Palace, probably one of the prettiest buildings in Kabul. Situated on the outskirts of the town in a fairly poor area, on the slopes of the surrounding hills, the palace looks almost unreal. Had it not been for the soldiers outside it, it would look like a spa in the wilderness. This is the headquarters of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Afghanistan. Entering the office of the defense minister of a country which has been in war for 9 years usually means going through numerous checks and guards. However, I did not notice anything of this kind. Of course, I noted more than what is normal for a ministry of defense. In contrast to usual night checks in the town, the checks here were discrete. Colonel General Shahnawaz Tanai, minister of defense, is the most important person in the Kabul government after President Najibullah. For many observers, as the

head of the Army, Gen Tanai is in fact the key person, especially since the "departure" of General Muhammad Gulabzoy, former minister of internal affairs and head of the Sarandoy organization (people's militia), to be ambassador to Moscow. Tanai is very young for a defense minister. He was born in 1950. ("You know, 38 years in Yugoslavia and 38 years in Afghanistan is not the same thing," he replied to my expression of surprise). He come from Paktia Province, on the border with Pakistan (the Pushtuns hold all main offices in the government), where he finished his schooling. He attended the Gharbi Shvarzay military school after which he graduated at the school for commandos and completed some other military courses. After that he went to the USSR where he obtained a diploma at a special school for commandos. He returned home and went through all military duties of a professional officer: from commander of a platoon and a detachment to the commander of a battalion, regiment, divisions, and corps. In Kabul, it is said that Gen Tanai is a member of the Khalq faction of the People's Democratic Party (like Gen Gulabzoy).

DANAS: How do you see the present situation in Afghanistan, especially since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops has been stopped?

Tanai: As you know, after the withdrawal of a limited contingent of Soviet troops, the armed extremists continued their fight against the state authorities in order to demonstrate their strength and make the military-political situation more difficult. They do not respect the Geneva agreement, but fight against the politics of national reconciliation. Today, the counterrevolution is in fact using those armed forces which are against Afghanistan's progress. I also think that the armed opposition will intensify its activities after the complete withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet units from our country. As far as Afghanistan and out friend the USSR are concerned, we fully respect the Geneva agreement. However, the other side, Pakistan and the United States, continue to train, supply with arms, and sent armed bandit formations to Afghanistan, in violation of the Geneva agreement.

DANAS: Meanwhile, to what extent have the activities of the opposition's armed forces become more intensive, particularly since the Geneva agreement?

Tanai: It could said that the amount or arms and the number of armed caravans together with material supplies sent to the rebels increased by some 30 percent compared to the previous month. Recently there has also been an increase in supplies to rebel bases located in the border region. The rebels' antistate propaganda has also intensified. The opposition often shells towns and settlements, and many innocent people and recently a large number of civilians have been killed. Although the opposition forces are trying to achieve unity in their operations against the state, this has not happened. It should also be said that even the commanders of the rebels, whose units are waging a battle on the territory of Afghanistan, cannot reach an agreement on unity. As regards the theoretical questions of unity, not even their leaders, that is to say the "Alliance of the Seven" can help them in this. I am pleased to be able to say that the rebels did not achieve their aims despite the fact that Pakistani military circles have been helping them by giving them the most modern weapons.

DANAS: They nevertheless came very close to some towns, they even occupied some of them temporarily.

Tanai: It is important to stress that after the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet units from Afghanistan, our Armed Forces displayed the ability to conduct independent and successful military operations. We achieved positive results. The plans of the rebels to occupy various parts of our country failed thanks to the actions of our Army. They sustained serious losses and a large amount of weapons and combat and other equipment was captured. The Army presented itself in its best light by displaying courage and endurance. As you know, the rebels stated that after the withdrawal of the limited contingent of the Soviet Army they will capture towns such as Jalalabad and Gazni. I can also mention the example of the garrison in the town of Khowst. In Khowst there are only the units of our army and they are superbly carrying out their defense duties. The same applies to Qandahar, Paktia Province, and Kabul. The road between the border and Kabul and Jalalabad is open. Transport vehicles are making their way without any difficulties.

DANAS: It was in fact on that road that several days ago a group of journalists had problems. They were all wounded.

Tanai: Yes, things like that happen. This is a result of rebels' mean tactics, of ambush attacks, mines on the road. The rebels, even when they achieve some insignificant successes, try to make them sound like great achievements and victories. I want to stress that we are preparing our Armed Forces to be able to completely independently carry out all combat tasks after the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. We are consolidating our positions and garrisons, and are strengthening the level of our Army's combat readiness. Of course, we are also trying to ensure safe travel on our roads.

DANAS: In your army there have been cases of desertion. Are we talking about a great number and is this worrying?

Tanai: There are deserters in every army, especially during a war. We have them too, but this phenomenon is not of the proportions as presented in the West's media. Today, the Afghan Army personnel are well prepared, morally and politically, and they have great experience in the service and in combat operations. In order to maintain a high combat spirit in the Army, we are working on morale, combat, and professional training.

DANAS: How has the new shorter military service affected the combat morale of Afghan soldiers?

Tanai: Quite well. The soldiers now know exactly how long they will have to stay in the Army. This has a stabilizing effect on their combat spirit. Because of this, I would once again like to stress that our Armed Forces are carrying out combat operations independently, that they are holding their positions, and that in 26 out of 32 provinces there are now no longer any Soviet soldiers.

DANAS: Recently it was noticed for the first time that surface-to-surface missiles of the Scud-B type were being used on the Afghan battlefield. Who handles these projectiles, Afghan or Soviet soldiers?

Tanai: The Scud-B missiles are handled by Afghan soldiers. At the moment the Soviet Army is making some very modern arms available to us, and we are quite capable of using them. Our soldiers have gone through certain courses and schools for such modern equipment as these missiles.

DANAS: What is the situation with combat aviation? Soviet-produced Su-7's, MIG-21's, and MIG-23's fly in the Afghan Air Force.

Tanai: Yes, we have modern Soviet airplanes of the Suhoj and MiG types....

DANAS: The Western press has recently reported that a Pakistani F-16 airplane shot down two Afghan MIG-23's. Is this true?

Tanai: No, these were Afghan transport airplanes with civilian passengers. They deviated from the established itinerary and were really shot down by Pakistani fighters.

DANAS: How many soldiers do you have under your command in fact? How big is the Afghan Army numerically at the moment?

Tanai: We have as many soldiers as we need. That is around 500,000 people in the Armed Forces, which means that members of the Army and the semimilitary formations are also included in this number.

DANAS: Have you noticed any change in Pakistan's attitude to your army now that Benazir Bhutto has come to power?

Tanai: The development of the political situation in Pakistan will directly depend on the dynamics of domestic events. It seems to me that one will be able to say something more specific once a certain amount of time has past and the government has been completely formed in that country.

DANAS: Pakistan receives a lot of American military aid and aid for opposition groups who fight against you also comes via this country. What do you think, how much of this aid to the mujahidin does Pakistan keep for itself?

Tanai: Well, I think the Pakistanis keep one half. Yes, they take one half for themselves.

DANAS: I noticed in Kabul last year that the policy of national reconciliation of President Najibullah was more pronounced. What have been the results of this policy in the almost 2 years since it was announced?

Tanai: The program of the policy of national reconciliation is being successfully implemented. There have been many achievements: in the political sense, on the international scene, and in the country. As an example one can cite the return of refugees, the switch of several bandit formations onto the side of the state, and support for this policy from the people. In short, the policy of national reconciliation has already had favorable results and is developing successfully.

DANAS: In the context of this policy: What are you doing with the former "bandits" when they surrender?

Tanai: We are being very attentive toward them. There is a plan to offer economic aid to these groups. Sometimes we transform them into small military formations to which we offer all the necessary aid. We are constantly working with them in both the propaganda and political sphere and this work is being done by local organs, military commanders, and political workers.

DANAS: Armed opposition groups are receiving aid from foreign countries? From which country, in your opinion, is the most aid coming from?

Tanai: It is difficult to say precisely which country is giving most aid in arms but it is not a secret that some Western and Arab countries are sending infantry equipment as well as heavy arms to the rebels. They are receiving antiaircraft guns, missiles, ammunition, grenades, various sorts of mines, and so on.

DANAS: What sort of projectiles have recently been used against Kabul causing many casualties among civilians?

Tanai: I think that these are Chinese projectiles launched from multi-barrelled missile launchers but there are also missiles from Western countries and even from certain Arab states.

DANAS: From which Arab states?

Tanai: I would not like to talk about that now. You probably have more information about these missiles.

DANAS: What do you personally think as defense minister about some leaders of opposition groups, about Mas'ud and Gulbuddin Hikmatyar?

Tanai: Gulbuddin Hikmatyar is one of the leaders of the "Alliance of Seven." He fled to Pakistan and has been an active counterrevolutionary for several years now. Gulbuddin uses terror and stops st nothing. It is no secret that he is working for the CIA. The same can be said for Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. He is one of the main leaders for the formation of groups in the Islamic Society party and operates in the Panjshir Valley and the areas that surround it.

DANAS: What kind of future do the "bandits" offer to Afghanistan? Is it a system of ayatollahs, similar to the Iranian system?

Tanai: Some regions of Afghanistan are at the moment under the partial control of the rebels. Here they are carrying out inhumane operations against the local population. However, they cannot come to agreement among themselves even here. An example is the Konarha Province where the opposition groups could not reach agreement over the division of power and literally fought each other so that there were many casualties.

DANAS: That means that you are quite certain that you will survive in power even after the complete evacuation of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan?

Tanai: Our party and our government are striving to resolve the Afghan problem by political means. We are also using military methods but whenever we can, we go for a peaceful solution. An expression of this is our policy of national reconciliation. Since the beginning of the withdrawal of Soviet units, our Army has shown that it can successfully carry out independent operations, defend individual garrisons, and secure communications. I believe that even after the departure of Soviet units, our army will be able to carry out the task that has been placed before it. It is true that we have had losses but this is war and there are losses in war. Losses are inevitable but the tasks are being carried out.

DANAS: You said that there are no longer Soviet soldiers in 26 out of 32 provinces in Afghanistan and your Army is in control of the situation. However, the mujahidin are here outside Kabul and firing missiles at the town and airport.

Tanai: Yes, they are outside Kabul but they are suffering great losses because we are constantly attacking them with either artillery or by helicopter and airplane.

DANAS: The opposition groups continue to receive aid from abroad. You say that your army is in control of the situation but the mujahidin are crossing your border, what do you think of that?

Tanai: Our government has proclaimed the border area a peace zone. We did this so that Afghan refugees can freely return home, so that they do not instigate military operations there, and so that some of our units could withdraw into the interior of the country. That is our decision, dictated by both humane and strategic reasons. You see, apart from this, opposition groups are carrying out armed action in this region, in which civilians suffer. This is their tactic but we do not want to contribute to the suffering of innocent people. Therefore we have withdrawn. I want to stress to you once again that our aim is peace for all Afghan people, peace in the country, and the independence of Afghanistan. We want to achieve this though political means but if this is not enough, military methods also exist, of course.

Senate Chairman on Issue of Power Struggle

BK0301130989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 3 Jan 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 3 (AFP)—A power struggle is intensifying between hardliners who favor setting up a military government for Afghanistan and moderates seeking to dissolve the ruling communist party to help facilitate talks with the resistance, analysts said.

Senate Chairman Mahmud Habibi, 60, a member of the hardline faction, said Kabul should "urgently set up a military government and halt discussions with the resistance."

"We are the inheritors of the revolution," Mr. Habibi said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Monday [2 January]. "We have to defend it."

The French-educated Mr. Habibi, who describes himself as "an intellectual of the revolutionary left," has served in several high-ranking posts in the Kabul leadership, including governor of the capital. He is not, however, a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

Mr. Habibi is among the hardliners who openly criticize those close to President Najibullah who favor disbanding the PDPA if it would help lead to a negotiated settlement to the nine-year-old Afghan conflict.

Mr. Habibi described them as "attempting to negotiate at any price."

"The country is drunk ... It's anarchy and every man for himself," he said, adding that "President Najibullah should not have shunted aside the harder line members of the PDPA."

"I am opposed to transforming the party," Mr. Habibi said, referring to a government plan revealed last week to replace the PDPA with a nationalist, social-democratic party in order to form a coalition government wih the mujahidin.

Afghan resistance leaders have repeatedly ruled out a coalition arrangement which would include the communist party.

Mr. Habibi also criticized the recent addition to the government of several ministers hostile to the PDPA who could eventually share power with the rebels.

"The politicians want to survive. That's why they're trying to make concessions," he said.

Mr. Habibi said that it had been an "error" to replace Interior Minister Muhammad Gulabzoy," a leader of the hardline faction named ambassador to Moscow in October.

PDPA hardliners have called for the formation of a military government to put the Kabul regime in a position of strength before opening talks with the Afghan resistance.

Acknowledging that the communist party had made some errors, Mr. Habibi said: "I'm a good Moslem. I am a follower of the Koran and we concede that in the beginning the revolution did not have a human face."

Asked about the government's chances of holding off the resistance, which is as close as 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the capital, Mr. Habibi said: "We can mobilize 30,000 men."

"Whatever happens my family and I will stay in Kabul," he said.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who is also the Soviet ambassador to Kabul, is expected in Islamabad on Wednesday [4 January] for talks with Pakistani officials and Afghan resistance leaders.

The talks are expected to focus on the question of forming a successor government in Kabul in the wake of the Soviet troop withdrawal, which is scheduled to be completed by February 15 under the Geneva Accords.

Mujahidin Promise To Continue Struggle

BK0201025889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the cease-fire announced by the Kabul regime with the support of the Soviet troops was broken on the very first day of its implementation yesterday. There were clashes between Kabul troops and the Afghan mujahidin in Deh Bala and Gowshtah, according to Kabul Radio and the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR. Earlier the mujahidin had categorically rejected the cease-fire proposal.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the Afghan alliance—Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani and Gulbuddin Hikmatyar—have reiterated that they will continue their struggle unless and until an Islamic, independent, and sovereign government is established in Afghanistan. Answering people's questions at a reception hosted in their honor in Islamabad on 1 January, they said that efforts are being made to divide Afghanistan similar to the pattern of Vietnam and Germany, but the heroic struggle of the Afghan people will not allow these designs to succeed.

The Afghan leaders said that before starting negotiations with the Soviet Union for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem, they will hold consultations with mujahidin leaders based in Iran to adopt a common stand in this connection. The mujahidin leaders rejected the idea of establishing any government that will not be in keeping with the wishes and aspirations of the Afghan people. They thanked the people and Government of Pakistan for providing shelter to about 3 million Afghan nationals.

The reception was hosted by Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, the parliamentary party leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, and Senator Khurshid Ahmad. The two hosts also spoke on the occasion.

Resistance Agrees To Meet Vorontsov in Pakistan

BK0301132189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 3 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders have agreed to meet Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov in Islamabad Wednesday [4 January], the rebel alliance's chief said here Tuesday.

Sibghatullah Mujadeddi, leader of the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF) who took over the seven-party alliance's three-month rotating chairmanship January 1, said the alliance had unanimously finalised its agenda for talks with Mr. Vorontsov, who is also Moscow's ambassador to Afghanistan.

"We will demand the removal of the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul," he told a news conference, adding that Afghans would never accept the ruling communist party in a future administration.

"Pressures aimed at changes in this regard will result in only continuation of our armed struggle," he warned.

The agenda included "immediate and unconditional withdrawal" of the Soviet troops, "removal of the present puppet regime" of President Najibullah in Kabul and Moscow's recognition of the mujahidin's government in Afghanistan, Mr. Mujadeddi said.

Soviet troops who went into Afghanistan nine years ago are scheduled to complete their withdrawal from the country by February 15.

Alliance Leader Rabbani on Talks With Soviets

JN3012124888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
28 Dec 88 p 17

[By Husayn al-Tantawi from Riyadh]

[Text] Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Afghan mujahidin alliance, has stated that following their return from Iran, where they are inspecting the camps and conditions of the Afghan mujahidin, the Afghan mujahidin leaders will hold an important meeting in the 1st week of January to fix the agenda of the expanded political meeting they will hold with the Soviets in Islamabad. He indicated that the peace efforts with the Russians are continuing, but the mujahidin reject their slow withdrawal and their display of forces, aircraft, and modern missiles, stressing that such an atmosphere does not serve the peace process.

In an interview with AL-SIYASAH, he said that the Islamabad meeting will be a continuation of the Al-Ta'if meeting and will be aimed at drawing up the executive steps of the broad lines approved at the Al-Ta'if meeting. The two sides will discuss the results of the two meetings the two sides' experts held in Islamabad on the issue of prisoners of war. They will also discuss the steps of the Soviet withdrawal, the peaceful transfer of power to an expanded government of mujahidin and other noncommunist figures, and the release of prisoners from Kabul prisons.

Rabbani announced that the mujahidin reject the current Soviet political moves to invite the former king of Afhhanistan to the talks on the formation of an expanded Afghan government, stressing that former King Zahir Khan has been historically neglected and that they refuse to have him share in any future government because the future of Afghanistan is something which concerns the Afghans, and they are the ones to determine it. Following is the text of the interview:

[Al-Tantawi] What were the results of the Al-Ta'if meeting?

[Rabbani] First, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques for hosting the first Afghan-Soviet talks on the land of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We mujahidin chose to hold the talks in the holy land because it was the springboard of the Islamic call. The government of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, extended to us every possible political, material, and moral support and backing in all areas and at most difficult times. The fact we declare before God Almighty and before history is that Saudi Arabia, as is customary regarding its advocacy of Islamic causes, was among the first to support us on all international and Islamic levels. The negotiations were held at the request of the Russians, but it was we who fixed the venue and time. We began negotiations with them without an agenda. We asked them: What do you want from us? The most important thing they wanted was to have their group and agents participate in the government. We categorically rejected any communist participation in the government because the communists are war criminals. Besides, it is not time for power sharing; the basic topic now is to transfer power from the hands of the usurpers to the hands of the Afghan people. We told them: If you want peace, this is not what peace means, and you are not entitled to ask that anyone be included in the government or elsewhere because this is the right of only the Afghan people, who alone decide on who will represent them. The only thing we want from you is to get out on the date you pledged—namely, 15 February 1989—and to withdraw your weapons, missiles, and aircraft.

We also asked for war reparations and for the release of the 30,000-40,000 prisoners in Kabul and for the release of the people and children in the Soviet Union who were transferred to Moscow during the war and who are being brainwashed by them. As for the mujahidin, they promised not to obstruct Soviet evacuation plans and not to attack their forces during their withdrawal nor to fire missiles at their aircraft, provided that they tell us in advance about their numbers and times of departure. The meeting was preliminary and both cordial and positive. Each side acquainted itself with the views of the other. As for the Islamabad meeting, it will be held according to a specific agenda and will include all mujahidin leaders.

[Al-Tantawi] What about the prisoners of war of both sides?

[Rabbani] Experts have held two meetings in Islamabad. Negotiations between the two parties concered the release of a Soviet soldier for 25 Afghan civilians and mujahidin. However, we face the fact that many Soviet prisoners of war refuse to return to the Soviet Union.

[Al-Tantawi] What about the mines and their maps?

[Rabbani] We asked them to give us the mine maps. They planted more than 30 million mines, causing many problems and difficulties for us. However, we are overcoming these problems with the help of God and the mine-sweeping teams.

[Al-Tantawi] What funds do you ask for as war reparations?

[Rabbani] This issue concerns a technical committee, which will meet later to define the losses and war reparations.

[Al-Tantawi] What is your idea regarding a peaceful transfer of power?

[Rabbani] The mujahidin are prepared to assume power immediately after the Soviet forces withdraw from our territory. Moreover, our administrative bodies are ready in the liberated governorates and districts. We have

established local administrations and appointed governors, and there are currently security organs and hospitals. In some of the liberated governorates, we kept the existing administration and only dismissed the communist traitors, whereas the remainder of employees were kept in their posts and we maintained both their wages and the privileges of their own administrations. As for Kabul and other large cities, we do not want to attack them because they are densely populated areas, and we do not want to kill innocent people. For this purpose, we have worked out military and civil plans to take Kabul and other large cities with minimum losses should the communists there show resistance. We are confident that the Najibullah government will collapse and fall immediately after the Russians withdraw because they [pro-Soviet Afghans] do not have any form of strength to maintain their rule. Furthermore, they will receive just punishment at the hands of the Afghan people, who have suffered from their injustice, tyranny, and oppression.

[Al-Tantawi] If the communist party asks for reorganization of its ranks and to join you in power, will you respond?

[Rabbani] No. We told them these communists sold their homeland and betrayed their people. There is no historical precedent in which a militant people have allowed traitors who killed their own people and submerged their country in subservience and colonialism to join them in power. I assert to you that those who were involved in treason are few. As for those subjected to pressures and temptations, we have pardoned them, and they will be just like the remainder of the people and will participate in power according to their qualifications.

[Al-Tantawi] What are the pillars of the expanded government?

[Rabbani] This government will comprise all mujahidin parties as well as the commissions and some Afghan figures in Kabul. The provisional government will be chosen by a consultative council, which will be formed after the withdrawal. As you know, the mujahidin movement in Afghanistan is a popular movement which is currently in control of more than 90 percent of Afghan territory.

[Al-Tantawi] Will you accept a secular govenment?

[Rabbani] No. The government will be Islamic. The transitional government will be responsible for running the country during the transitional period, and the mujahidin personnel will carry out the work of war police along with the army troops who join them. So, they will be in charge of internal security until the country's security and political situation settle down and until the refugees return to their towns and villages safe and sound. The consultative council will lay down the constitution and present it to the people for referendum. Afterward, there will be legislative elections for the consultative council, which will appoint a permanent government. There will also be direct elections to choose the head of state.

[Al-Tantawi] To what extent do you agree with Soviet President Gorbachev's proposals at the United Nations?

[Rabbani] We categorically reject these proposals, as they are meant for procrastination. Since we pledged not to attack their withdrawing forces, we see no meaning for the cease-fire and the truce that he proposed as of January 1989. They also held direct meetings with us. There is also no room for a truce as long as the agent communist government is in power. Also, what is the meaning of an international conference while we are holding direct negotiations as two basic parties to the issue? And what is the need for UN peace-keeping forces? Is there a civil war to justify the presence of such forces? When the Russians leave, the mujahidin will be able to maintain security in the country. Currently, we are in actual control of the majority of our territories. The Russians know this. Let them see how the liberated cities and governorates are being run in security and stability, and how the medical, social, and educational activities are being conducted there. As regards his proposal on making Afghanistan a demilitarized country, we strongly reject this odd proposal. If there is any justification for this, the Soviet Union should be the demilitarized state, as it is the state that attacked our country. The Afghan people took up arms within the framework of their legitimate right to defend their religion and land. If there is need for international forces, then their natural place should be along the Soviet border with Afghanistan to prevent the Soviets from interfering anew in Afghan affairs.

[Al-Tantawi] What about Gorbachev's proposal on halting arms supplies to both sides?

[Rabbani] This also falls within one-upmanship. President Gorbachev knows better than anyone else the quantity of arms that the Soviet Union has recently introduced into our country. These were modern and highly sophosticated arms and hardware with world technology and extensive fire power. The Soviets introduced new long-range Scud missiles and MiG-27's. Despite fierce battles and heavy fire, the mujahidin liberated many areas and scored many heroic victories.

[Al-Tantawi] If the Soviets procrastinate in the issue of withdrawal, do you have the means to force them to withdraw?

[Rabbani] Undoubtedly, they will have to pay a heavy price for procrastination and maneuvering. It will not be easy for them to procrastinate, as this will be met with continued resistance and jihad. They would also lose politically, as it is not rational for them to go back on their pledges. This would mean that the Russians do not believe in international resolutions and treaties. It would

be another scandal added to their scandal of launching the war. In the negotiations, we showed them our good intentions and credibility. As we have repeatedly asserted, we will not lay down arms or be misled by the one-upmanship. The Russians should express their credibility by continuing their withdrawal. Both sides' desire for peace should be the criterion for future relations between us.

[Al-Tantawi] Some say that some mujahidin party leaders reject negotiations with the Soviets or doubt the usefulness and credibility of these negotiations. Is this true?

[Rabbani] No, it is not. Some have personal viewpoints. However, our decision within the framework of the mujahidin alliance is made by the majority, and it is binding for the minority.

[Al-Tantawi] What did the custodian of the two holy mosques tell you during your recent meeting in Riyadh?

[Rabbani] Both King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz have stressed to us the Kingdom's support for the mujahidin until they achieve victory. They also affirmed the Kingdom's support for the Islamic government in reconstructing what the war has destroyed and in helping the refugees return to their cities and villages. They stressed that the Saudi people will always back their brotherly Muslim Afghan people after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops to help build the torn country. We are confident that these noble people will continue to support and help us during peace as they did during the plight.

Najibullah Endorses Military Law Amendments

LD0401061689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 3, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the basis of Item 2nd, Article 75 of the Constitution, has endorsed banner law and state order of the RA which had been approved by the National Assembly in seven chapters and 38 articles, reports the presidential office.

The presidential office reports that President Najibullah in accordance with the Item 2nd, Article 75 of the Constitution has also endorsed the amendment of Items 1, 2, Article 91, of the law on military service approved by the National Assembly.

Text of the amendment of Items 1, 2, Article 91 of the law on military service.

Item 1, Article 91: officers and non-commissioned officers who had served in the Armed Forces and their military ranks were retaken as a result of legal reasons or they were retired on the basis of court's verdict, will be called for the military services as follow:

Those who served over six years are exempted from such services.

The Council of Ministers of the RA has been assigned to approve and deliver the decrees and amendments of the said laws to the first session of the National Assembly.

Wakil To Visit Paris in Najibullah's Stead

BK0301083089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan 3 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has cancelled plans to attend an international chemical weapons conference in Paris beginning this week on the advice of the French Government, official sources said here.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil will head the Afghan delegation to the conference, due to open Saturday and end January 11.

The French Government had indicated that it did not think it advisable for Mr. Najibullah to visit Paris "particularly for security reasons," Foreign Ministry sources said Monday.

Mr. Najibullah's decision to head the Afghan delegation to the Paris conference had clearly embarrassed the French authorities, who had finally indicated that they did not think it was a good idea without going so far as to say they would not allow Mr. Najibullah to attend, they added.

Most of the more than 100 countries taking part in the conference at the Paris headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are sending delegations headed by foreign ministers but heads of state were invited to attend if they wished.

Official sources here had said December 26 that Mr. Najibullah would have talks on the future of Afghanistan with other foreign delegates attending the conference, who include U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar took over responsibility for the Afghan question for the United Nations in November.

All Soviet troops are to be withdrawn from Afghanistan by mid-February under a U.N.-brokered accord between Pakistan and Kabul and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington.

Mr. Najibullah on Friday announced a unilateral four-day ceasefire throughout Afghanistan from Sunday and stressed that he supported all Soviet initiatives, including a meeting between Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov and mujahidin rebel leaders in December.

Rebels Continue Action Against Military

Increased Pressure on Gardeyz

BK0101114089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have mounted pressure on the provincial headquarters, Gardeyz, of Paktia Province. They are also reported to (?have) conducted attacks on the military outpost of the city. The mujahidin also captured four security posts in (Sarwari) area and arrested four Kabul regime officers and some soldiers. Another report says they have destroyed a number of Kabul regime buildings and killed five troops during operations near cantonment of (?Kot) in Paktia Province.

The mujahidin launched a big attack on the Kabul Army camp located in Shah-e Ab area at the bank of (Amy) River in Takhar Province, killing and capturing hundreds of troops. They also seized a large number of arms and ammunition.

Further Rebel Attacks

BK0201152989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin attacked military posts in Kama District of Nangarhar Province, destroying 5 posts, killing 20 Kabul regime troops, and damaging 2 tanks and 2 armored vehicles.

The mujahidin also attacked security posts around the airfield area in Qandahar, killing 36 Kabul regime troops and destroying 1 helicopter and 2 ammunition depots.

The mujahidin carried out a rocket attack on Feyzabad garrison in Badakhshan Province and inflicted heavy losses on Kabul regime troops.

The mujahidin also engaged Kabul regime troops near Nad-i-Ali in Helmand Province, killing 30 Kabul troops and captured 13 of them along with their weapons.

Ambush in Herat

BK0301153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin successfully ambushed Kabul regime troops on Herat-Islam Qilla Road, killing 26 of them and destroying 2 armored vehicles and another vehicle. They also captured a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition.

The mujahidin also carried out successful operations in Baghlan, Parvan, Kabul, and Nangharhar Provinces, inflicting heavy loss of life and material on Kabul regime troops.

30 Military Positions Captured

BK0401112089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 4 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have stepped up attacks in several provinces and have captured 30 military posts and positions in the past week, killing 16 Afghan troops and capturing 70, resistance sources said here Wednesday.

Mujahidin guerrillas captured 30 military posts and positions and captured 70 Afghan troops in operations last week in the Kama and Goshta areas of Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan, the sources said.

They said they did not have figures for casualties.

The mujahidin killed 12 troops in an attack on the airport at Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar, and a nearby military camp Monday, the sources said.

In southern Qandahar Province the guerrillas carried out an attack on Qandahar airfield destroying one transport plane Monday, the sources added.

In northern Konduz Province four Afghan government troops were killed and eight injured when mujahidin shelled a commando brigade garrison Sunday, the sources added.

Protest No 172 Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD0301090989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 2, BAKHTAR—One hundred seventy second notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of Article Seven, Document Number One of the Geneva agreements was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice strict information on Pakistani violations are given.

The notice asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of Paragraph Seven, Document Number Four of the Geneva accords investigate the violations and convey results of its findings to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general. [sentence as received]

India

Delhi Reports U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes

BK0401160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpt] U.S. fighter planes have shot down two Libyan jets over the Mediterranean Sea. A Defense Department spokesman in Washington said F-14 planes from the

U.S. aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy downed two Libyan MiG-23's this afternoon. The incident took place off the eastern coast of Libya. There are no reports of damage to the U.S. jets.

Confirming the attack, Libya said the American action was premeditated aggression. Radio Tripoli in a broadcast said the jets were on a routine surveillance flight when they were shot down over their territorial waters.

A State Department spokesman in Washington has, however, maintained that the Libyan jets were approaching U.S. ships at high speed when they were shot down.

Meanwhile, Libya has called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council over the shooting incident. Libyan news agency JANA said in Paris that the Libyan representative to the United Nations will present an urgent complaint to the Security Council on the alleged aggression by the United States against Libya. This is the first military clash between the two countries since some U.S. jets attacked Tripoli in 1986. [passage omitted]

3 Killed, 15 Injured in Bomb Blast in Punjab
BK0101130089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, 3 people were killed and 15 seriously injured in a powerful bomb blast at village Chawanda Devi in Amritsar District this afternoon. In Gurdaspur District, terrorists gunned down a farmer in village Shekhawal.

16 Killed by Unidentified Gunmen in Bihar 1 Jan
BK0301064889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The UNI, quoting delayed official reports reaching Patna, says that in all 16 people were massacred in Naxalite [leftist extremists]-infested Jahanabad and Rohtas districts of Bihar on Sunday [1 January]. While six members of a family were killed by unidentified gunmen at Firozapur Village in Rohtas District, five members of another family were gunned down in Malibigha Village in Jahanabad District. Five more people were also shot dead in separate incidents in the villages of Rohtas District.

The situation in the area is said to be tense but under control. Additional police forces have been deployed and patrolling intensified.

Air India Receives Bomb Threats on Two Flights
BK0401090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Two Air India flights to India from Kuala Lumpur and Sydney were delayed after a caller informed the control tower at Singapore by telephone that bombs had been placed on the planes.

The flight to Madras and Bombay via Singapore from Kuala Lumpur was delayed by 17 hours, while a flight from Sydney had to make a landing at Bali Island in Indonesia for a search. It was on way to Bombay via Singapore. Both the threats turned out to be a hoax.

Mild Tremor in Assam 3 Jan; No Damage Reported
BK0301131189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] In Assam, a tremor of mild intensity was felt in the north bank of Brahmaputra early this morning. The earthquake, which occurred at about 0526 [2356 GMT of 2 January], lasted a few seconds. There is no report of any loss of life or damage to property from anywhere.

Iran

Khomeyni Offers Gorbachev Afghan 'Secret' Deal
TA0401070589 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 4 Jan 89 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report by Giyora Shamis]

[Text] Jerusalem—Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni is offering a secret diplomatic deal to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that could bring pro-Iranian Shi'ites to power in Kabul. According to a top Iranian government source, Khomeyni's message—the first he has ever personally sent to another head of state—includes a plan that would entail close cooperation between the USSR and Iran not only in Afghanistan, but also in the Gulf.

The Afghan rebel forces are divided between seven groups of Sunni Moslems based in Pakistan, and eight Shi'ite Moslem factions, which are operating in the Herat and Kandahar regions in Western Afghanistan, near the Iranian border. The Shi'ite fighters comprise about one-third of the Afghan rebel forces. A bloody struggle for power between the divided rebels is likely once the Soviets pull out the rest of their forces next month. THE NATION has learned some exclusive details of Khomeyni's proposal to Gorbachev:

—The Soviets will help the Shi'ite forces to take over the government in Kabul.

—The new government will include remnants of the current pro-Soviet regime.

—Iran and the USSR will cooperate to rebuild the Afghani army and economy.

—The new Shi'ite-dominated government will coordinate its policies with Moscow.

Iran and the USSR will reach a strategic understanding, cooperating militarily in the Gulf region—this will include the supply of advanced weapons systems to the war-ravaged Iranian army.

Iran will pledge to act as a spearhead of anti-American activity throughout the Near and Middle East.

On Monday, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Yuli M Vorontsov, who is also the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, arrived in Tehran for talks with the heads of the Afghan Shi'ite rebels. Over the last few weeks, Vorontsov, who is Gorbachev's main trouble-shooter, has been putting together a comprehensive plan for a new government in Kabul. Vorontsov also met will Khomeyni's top aides, including his son Ahmed. They showed the envoy a draft of Khomeyni's message, and asked if Gorbachev would receive a special Iranian delegation with more details of the proposed Iran-Soviet pact.

After consulting with Moscow, Vorontsov told the Iranians that Gorbachev would personally receive the delegation. Yesterday morning, the special delegation left Tehran for Moscow. The three envoys are Ayatollah Abdullah Gavadi Amoli—Khomeyni's personal representative, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Larjani and Mrs. Marziyeh Hadidehchi, a member of the Iranian parliament. Iran watchers said that the composition of the special delegation is a further indication that Khomeyni is repulsing the pro-Western tendencies of Iran strongman Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and is finding a community of interest with the Soviets.

Gorbachev Receives Khomeyni Message 4 Jan
LD0401105189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] According to the report of the central news unit, this morning in Moscow, the top-ranking delegation representing Imam Khomeyni, headed by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, met Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and handed over the message of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Soviet leader.

Tehran on Vorontsov Talks With Afghan Mujahidin
LD0301132289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and head of the the Soviet delegation in the talks with the Afghan mujahidin, arrived in Tehran yesterday.

On his arrival at Mehrabad Airport Vorontsov, who is also the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, said the aim of his trip is to hold talks with the Islamic Republic authorities and the leaders of the coalition of the eight Afghan mujahidin based in Tehran. He will leave for Islamabad this afternoon for the second round of talks with the leaders of Afghan mujahidin.

It is possible that views differ about Vorontsov's trip to Tehran and the search for a diplomatic solution to the Afghan crisis. The difference in the views stems from the expectations and the variety of issues concerning Afghanistan's future. The Soviet military intervention over the past 9 years turned that country's problems from a local and regional issue into an international one. It also made difficult the solution of the crisis through diplomatic channels, delayed it until now and brought confusion to the prospects for Afghanistan's future.

The view of the Soviet Union, which is seeking a diplomatic solution after 9 years of unsuccessful military involvement, is not acceptable to the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. The mujahidin believe that the Soviet Union is not sincere in its search for a peaceful and lasting solution, and that it is seeking a solution to its own problem instead of Afghanistan's. The Soviet Union expects to evacuate its troops peacefully, while the Kabul regime under its protection, gains at least a share in the next government. This has been strongly rejected by the mujahidin. The Muslim mujahidin expect the Soviet Union to stop making excuses in the immediate solution of the Afghan problems, to evacuate its troops as soon as possible and to let the Mujahidin form a new government, as desired by the Afghan people in accordance with their cultural traditions. That is why the Mujahidin rejected the recent meeting in Rome between Vorontsov and Zahir Shah, considering it another sign of Soviet insincerity. The two main Afghan political-military groups, the seven-member and eight-member coalitions based in Peshawar and Tehran, have clear views about resolving the Afghan issue. The joint belief in the future of Afghanistan as an Islamic country is noteworthy. The two coalitions stress the point that the Muslim people of Afghanistan are allowed to determine the future of their country, and that no foreign power should interfere in their affairs.

The views of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the issue are also clear. In his meeting with Vorontsov last night Foreign Minister Velayati clearly stated that Iran is in favor of peace and an end to bloodshed in Afghanistan as quickly as possible. But this peace must be based on the wishes and interests of the Afghan people. He added that Afghnistan's independence must not be threatened under any circumstances, and that the evacuation of Soviet troops should not be a prelude to the infiltration of troops of another country.

The Iranian foreign minister believes that all diplomatic efforts in the region should be aimed at the establishment of a government based on the wishes of the Afghan people. Nevertheless, what has been called an important obstacle to a general agreement is the fear of possible agreements between foreign powers to prevent the estalbishment of an Islamic Government in Afghanistan. Two of the leaders of the seven-member coalition of Afghan Islamic parties based in Peshawar in Pakistan recently spoke clearly of conspiracies, in which the United States, the Zionist regime, and Britain are involved. Their aim is to prevent the formation of an Islamic government in Afghanistan and to create a rift among the various political and religious groups and

parties. These Mujahidin leaders believe that the Soviet efforts to hold separate talks with various parties and societies and the Western propaganda support can be regarded in the same vein. They are suspicious of the following remark by Vorontsov: We have no intention of ignoring some groups. In the talks the head of the Soviet delegation justified his talks with Zahir Shah with the same reasoning, which was rejected by the Mujahidin.

In any case, a political solution of the Afghan issue and the establishment of peace in that country must not be at the expense of the substitution of other countries' troops for Soviet troops and foreign interference in Afghanistan's future.

Khamene'i Receives USSR's Vorontsov
LD0301160589 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i told a senior Soviet official today that Iran was concerned over events in Afghanistan and supported moves that would allow the Afghan people to freely decide on the form of their government.

"We firmly support the Soviet decision to move its forces out of Afghanistan and create the grounds for ending the bloodshed and hand over responsibility on running the affairs of this country to the its [as received] real representatives," he said.

Khamene'i made the comment in a meeting with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov who delivered an oral message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet official who had two rounds of talks with the Afghan mujahidin leaders based in Iran, also briefed the president on the discussions and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan which is due to be completed in six weeks.

Vorontsov left Tehran this afternoon. He also met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati after his arrival Monday.

"We are naturally concerned about the future of the people of Afghanistan and we are interested and insist that their problems are solved as soon as possible," the president said. Khamene'i stressed that the Afghan mujahidin had shown a readiness to cooperate for the future of Afghanistan.

"The interest of Afghanistan and the region lies in the future formation of an independent and non-aligned government (in Kabul)," he added.

Vorontsov Departs After Talks With Mujahidin
LD0301172389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Two rounds of talks between Afghanistan's Council of Islamic Coalition and mr Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, took place last night and this morning. These talks were held in the Council's central office in tehran.

In these talks, Mr Khalili, the council's spokesman, spoke of the Islamic resistance of Afghanistan during the past decade. He further emphasized the fact that the current regime of Afghanistan enjoys no popularity among the Afghan people, stating that the Afghan regime must leave the scene due to the crimes it has committed. He then urged the Soviet Union to face this situation realistically.

He continued by stressing the necessity of Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan within the prescribed period of time, and also said the Soviet Union's support for the current regime should come to an end. He further emphasized the importance of Soviet respect for Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity and the necessity of compensating for the damage that Afghanistan has endured.

Mr Vorontsov in turn pointed to his special mission pertaining to resolving the Afghan problem, a mission delegated to him by the Soviet leadership. He said, it is our wish that the Afghan issues should be resolved in a peaceful manner, through political negotiations. He added, it is clear to us that we should conduct negotiations with all Afghan groups and parties.

Our objective behind these negotiations is to pave the way for establishing a government in Afghanistan with extensive popular support. To that end, the role of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is highly important for us.

Mr Vorontsov left Tehran this afternoon after holding talks with Iranian officials and the members of the eight-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin.

Further on Khamene'i-Vorontsov Meeting
LD0301185389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Khamene'i, the president, met Mr Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, today.

In that meeting, Mr Vorontsov first conveyed warm and sincere greetings from Mr Gorbachev to Mr Khamene'i. He then presented Mr Khamene'i with a report in connection with the latest developments in talks he has held with Afghan mujahidin groups based in Iran and Pakistan. The report also contained details about the procedure planned for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and about issues relating to that

country's future prospects. He then emphasized the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with assistance it can provide for resolving the Afghan issue. He pointed to U.S. political conspiracies in the region and said, with a glance at the policies adopted by the United States, it is clear that the United States does not want to see peace and calm in Afghanistan. We intend to divulge these U.S. policies.

Mr Khamene'i expressed gratitude for the friendly greetings from Mr Gorbachev, while expressing satisfaction with the Soviet policy of withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan and at delegating the responsibility of deciding the future of Afghanistan to that country's true representatives. He expressed support for that policy, stating, the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, according to the prescribed timetable, was a realistic policy, which can bring hope about the future to the representatives of the Afghan mujahidin groups. The policy can also safeguard the national unity and territorial integrity of that country.

The president then pointed to contacts that exist between Iranian officials and the Afghan mujahidin—the eight-party coalition in Iran and the seven-party coalition based in Pakistan. He announced Iran's readiness to determine the future of Afghanistan. [sentence as heard] He said, Afganistan's real interests—and those of the region as a whole—are that an independent and nonaligned government should rule that country in the future to create an opportunity for Afghan people to concentrate on their country's development and reconstruction and to make up for the setbacks they suffered during the 9-year war that has besieged their country.

Afghan Rebel Leader on Rejecting Cease-Fire

LD0201171289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The leader of the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance announced: No cease-fire or peace proposal can be acceptable to the Afghan revolutionaries as long as the occupying forces remain on Afghan territory and the Kabul regime is not toppled. Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan and head of the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance, during a news conference in Pakistan, invited the eight-party alliance of Afghan mujahidin in Iran to attend talks in Pakistan to adopt one stance and a single policy before the next round of talks with the Soviet Union. Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Society, and Hikmatyar, leader of Afghanistan's Islamic party, made a joint warning in the face of some conspiracies that are currently being hatched to divide Afghanistan.

Burhanuddin Rabbani said: A cease-fire proposal by the Soviet Union when the Kabul regime and the occupying forces remain in Afghanistan has no purpose but to divide Afghanistan. The Soviet Union, through the implementation of a cease-fire and invitation to the UN peacekeeping forces, intends to divide Afghanistan into two parts the same as Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. He declared: As long as the occupying forces remain on Afghan territory and as long as the Kabul regime remains in power, no peace proposal or a cease-fire can be accepted by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

The leader of Afghanistan's Islamic party, Hikmatyar, strongly attacked British policy in Afghanistan and said: Britain, India, Israel, and some Western countries intend to hatch plots to prevent the establishment of an Islamic system in Afghanistan. Hikmatyar reiterated that there is no place for Zahir Shah in revolutionary Afghanistan.

8-Party Afghan Mujahidin Leaders End Visit

LD0401093489 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 4, IRNA—A group of leaders of Iran-based 8-party Alliance of the Afghan mujahidin left Tehran for Islamabad, Pakistan, Wednesday morning.

The Afghan mujahidin leaders were seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Pakistani Ambassador to Tehran, Tanvir Ahmad Khan.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister and Moscow's Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov is currently in Islamabad for talks with Afghan mujahidin leaders based in Pakistan.

Vorontsov held talks with the Afghan mujahidin leaders in Tehran yesterday. He is scheduled to hold talks with the leaders of the Pakistan based 7-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin in Islamabad today to find a solution to the Afghanistan issue.

Vorontsov for the first time held talks with leaders of the 7-party coalition in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia early last December.

Besharati Gives Interview on Cease-Fire

LD0101103889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati by unidentified reporter; from the "Holy Defense" program; time and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] I wish to thank Mr Besharati who has allowed us to be with him for a few minutes. Clearly, our dear listeners would like you to give some details about the responsibility of the Security Council, which passed Resolution 598, toward Iraq's procrastination.

[Besharati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Although the Security Council approved Resolution 598 last year, during the course of the past year any delegation, group, leader, or international official who has gone on trips or who has had discussions, have said that Resolution 598 is the best solution and the best way to sort out the crisis of the war between Iran and

Iraq. Therefore, both the Security Council and those who have been anxious to see an end to the war and who have regarded Resolution 598 as the best solution to the war, are responsible for the slowness of the discussions and for the fact that the three rounds of discussions have ended without any results.

It is natural that our people ask—and it is a proper question that they ask—that now that we have accepted the cease-fire and have accepted Resolution 598, what have we achieved so far and what will be the future form of these discussions and how do we envisage their future. We believe that the Security Council should act in accordance with its legal and moral duties and should put pressure on the Iraqi regime for the exact implementation of the resolution, the way that it has been approved. Only the first article of this resolution about the cease-fire has been implemented so far. The second article which is about the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the soil of our Islamic homeland has unfortunately not been implemented yet. In view of the fact that something like 2,000 kms of our territory in four provinces is still in the hands of the Iraqi regime, it is right for our people to be worried and it is right for them to expect that the fourth round of discussions will be more successful, and it is right that they demand that if we see the discussions are going in this way, we should make some preconditions for our participation in the fourth round of peace discussions.

[Reporter] Mr Besharati, on this basis how do you evaluate the work of the Security Council.

[Besharati] Unfortunately, I should say that all the strength, capacity, and capability of the Security Council was directed toward ending the war, not toward the implementation of other articles of this resolution which are inseparable parts of that resolution. When the cease-fire was declared, they did not show the same zeal, enthusiasm, anxiety, and effort toward the implementation of other articles. We see a slowness, a slackening, a lack of initiative, and a lack of ability in the Security Council as a whole, and in the person of the security general in particular. Although the secretary general is not pleased with the progress of discussions, in our view the secretary general should make more efforts toward this issue and he should demand that the Security Council put pressure on the Iraqi regime for the precise implementation of the resolution.

[Reporter] In view of the closeness of the next round of discussions, how do you envisage the future course of the discussions?

[Besharati] These days, which coincide with Christmas and the Christian New Year, all European and American countries are having holidays. It is like the end of our month of Esfand when most departments are closed till after the 13th day.

In view of the holidays in European countries and in view of the lack of efforts which we clearly see among most members of the Security Council, at the moment I cannot envisage a very bright future. We are worried that the fourth round of discussions will not be successful either and that we may not achieve a tangible outcome. For the same reason, we have informed the secretary general that we will take part in this round of discussions only if we can be certain of its fruitfulness. If this round of discussions is started with these preliminary conditions and especially if the secretary general visits Tehran and Baghdad before the fourth round of discussions, and if he makes greater preparations for this work in advance, then we can be more hopeful about the fourth round than about previous rounds.

[Reporter] Mr Besharati, some political circles and commentators believe that Iran has tolerated [as heard] the slowness of the discussions. What are your views about this point?

[Besharati] These political observers may not have all the necessary information for them to accuse us of such a thing. The nature of discussions is that they are slow; especially discussions which are held after an 8-year war full of loss and damage. However, this is only one aspect of the issue. The other dimension of the issue, which is not in our hands and which we cannot change, is due to the situation which exists in the region and at the international level. It is natural that after the cease-fire we still maintain our slogans, we still have our predetermined goals, we still have our own fundamental and basic issues. We have a strong position regarding the Middle East region and regarding the solution of the regional crisis and Arab-Israeli relations. We oppose compromises and the degrading positions adopted by 'Arafat, for instance. Of all the countries of the world, we are the only country not to recognize the Palestinian government in exile; because the acceptance of this government is an implicit recognition of the existence of Israel. This position is not favored and supported by the countries which possess votes and influence in the Security Council. We continue to support the people of Afghanistan against the occupiers, and we believe that Soviet forces should withdraw from Afghanistan without any conditions and without any terms, and that the future of Afghanistan should be decided by the Afghan people themselves. This is not a position favored by the Soviet Union. In fact, both positions have been responsible for us facing the present situation in our peace discussions. The Soviets have repeatedly told us: You compromise over the issue of Afghanistan so that we can compromise over the issue of the war; but we have never been ready to reconsider our support for the deprived people of Afghanistan.

The same is true about the Middle East. We will oppose anything which leads to recognition of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Well, if we wish to speed up the peace discussions, it is natural that we should moderate our positions. If we moderate our positions and our slogans, then we will witness greater speed in the discussions. The opposite is also true, and that is something which we are witnessing at the moment.

[Reporter] In view of the changes which have come about in the region recently, what will be the form of relations between the Islamic Republic and the Persian Gulf littoral states?

[Besharati] After acceptance of the resolution and the establishment of the cease-fire, the situation in the region was completely transformed. The countries of the region which, for social, political, psychological, regional, strategic, and other reasons, were forced to support the Iraqi regime, and who regarded the war as the main obstacle to the expansion of their relations with us, no longer have the same restraints now that the war has ended.

On the other hand, the Iraqi regime has territorial claims on all its neighboring countries—on Jordan, Syria, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Kuwait. Just today the newspapers wrote that Saddam said that the existing borders between Iraq and Kuwait are unacceptable. Iraq's territorial claim against Kuwait includes the area up to the center of Kuwait. When we were talking with our friends in Kuwait, we asked them where our hotel was situated: in the center, in the east or west? They asked why. We said we wish to know the border which the Iraqis believe separates them from Kuwait, whether this hotel is this side or the other side of that border. The Saudi Arabians know full well that before the war the Iraqi regime regarded Saudi Arabia as the most reactionary government of the region. Now the war has ended and the previous restraints do not exist any longer. Arab countries are afraid of the Saddam regime. For these reasons they wish to balance their relations with Iraq by establishing relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also if they wish to achieve any peace or security in the region they must improve their relations with us.

We have also paid careful attention to these two issues. We have warmly shaken their hands and will continue to do so. The future of our relations with those countries will be much better than in the past. Resolution 598 envisages the joint security of the countries of the region, the establishment of peace and security. It is natural that all the countries should be involved in this security. We are confident that in the future our relations with those countries will be very good.

[Reporter] Mr Besharati, this question, also posed by our listeners, is about the shape of our relations with Saudi Arabia in the future.

[Besharati] Saudi Arabia is one of the countries of the region. It is one of our neighbors. We have many common principles with Arabia; but we also have some points of difference. The issue of the slaughter of the hajj pilgrims should definitely be compensated for and we should take part in an honorable hajj pilgrimage. However, on the issue of security, the affairs of Muslims, in OPEC and in the Islamic Conference we share common positions. Our hajj and our Qa'ba is situated there. Our holy places are there. The shrines of the family of the prophet and the prophet himself are there. Therefore, we cannot be indifferent toward Arabia. Our future relations with Arabia will be good. There have been some attempts to establish relations, and we have supported these attempts and have given a positive response to them. God willing, here I can give this good tiding to our dear people: Next year, with great probability, we shall be going to the hajj pilgrimage.

Visiting DPRK Official Meets Energy Minister

LD0201071389 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 2 IRNA—Visiting North Korean Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-Nam met with Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh here Sunday night and discussed bilateral technical and economic cooperation, said the ministry's public relations office here Monday morning.

Both sides expressed the hope that arrangements will be made for exchange of visits between Iranian and North Korean dam building and irrigation experts and also exchange of experiences in these fields.

The North Korean minister arrived here on December 26 heading a delegation and has held talks with several Iranian officials.

Visits Bushehr

LD3012115088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Chong Song-nam, [DPRK] minister for external economic affairs, arrived in Bushehr today, accompanied by a team of delegates from his country. He inspected the port facilities of Bushehr and also the oil installations in the area.

According to report from IRNA, he said in Bushehr: After carrying out inspections and research, we are aware that there are petroleum sources in North Korea. We have decided to use Iranian expertise for exploration and exploitation of these sources. The Iranian expertise, he said, is renowned throughout the world.

DPRK Delegation Concludes Visit

LD3012155388 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Yong-nam left here Friday for Pyongyang and was seen off at Tehran Mehrabad Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking in an interview before departure, Kim expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Tehran and said "Iran-DPRK relations will be further strengthened in the future."

Velayati said that the expansion of mutual ties in the near future especially in fisheries, fishing, ship-building, mining, and oil exploration was among the results of Kim's visit to Iran.

The DPRK President Kim Il-song has extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart Ali Khamene'i to visit North Korea, which has been accepted by President Khamene'i and which will be made at a convenient future occasion, Velayati added.

Velayati said that the North Korean Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam is still here to continue his talks with Iranian officials.

DPRK ministers of foreign affairs and external economic affairs arrived here on December 26, heading top-level delegations.

Velayati on Talks With DPRK Minister

LD3012200388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Our correspondent's interview with Foreign Minister Velayati, which was conducted while he was seeing off the North Korean foreign minister, is our first news report:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, could you please elaborate on the issues discussed and the agreements reached between the two countries Iran and North Korea?

[Velayati] DPRK External Economic Affairs Minister Chong Song-nam, visited Iran with his accompanying delegation and took part in detailed discussions with Iranian officials. They were received by our country's high ranking officials and it was decided to convene a joint commission—which will be the first joint commission between the two countries—in the near future.

The honorable DPRK minister of external economic affairs remained in Tehran to confer with our honorable Minister of Construction Jihad about bilateral cooperation in various fields formed after the revolution.

During this trip it was decided to further expand cooperation in various directions—in economic, commercial and oil fields. The Islamic Republic of Iran will help the DPRK explore and exploit oil, and will help in fields in which the DPRK does not have much experience. With respect to fisheries and [word indistinct], we have agreed on some long-term plans. Concerning mines, as you know, Ayattolahi has signed a few contracts, and in the near future we will see comprehensive cooperation between the two countries in this respect.

The result of all the discussions held between the DPRK and Iran, indicate a positive and bright future for relations between the two countries. [end recording]

DPRK Minister Visits Gilan Province

NC3112072688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Chong Song-Nam, DPRK external economic affairs minister, accompanied by his country's deputy minister for natural resources, has arrived in Gilan province to inspect agricultural and development projects. The DPRK external economic affairs minister spoke to the Central News Unit correspondent at Rasht airport and said: The DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been together on the common front against U.S. imperialism in the past, and after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran we strongly supported your revolution's stance. During this period, we have been on the side of your revolutionary people, and the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have helped in North Korea's development.

The DPRK minister spoke of the volume of the exchange of goods between the two countries in past years and said: The figures for such exchanges have been very high. Regarding his meetings with Iranian officials, he described these as fruitful. He then stressed: I hope that in view of the DPRK's experience in the fields of marine resources, fisheries, mines and metals, shipbuilding, and in construction and reconstruction, the DPRK will be able to cooperate closely with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Punishments for Bribe-Taking, Fraud, Embezzlement

LD3112081988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] On the basis of the law issued by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and conveyed to the relevant authorities for implementation, severe punishments have been stipulated for those guilty of taking bribes and of embezzlement and fraud in the civil service.

Those who commit fraud, apart from having to return the goods in question to their owners, will be sentenced to 1-2 years' imprisonment and the payment of fines in cash equavalent to the value of the fraud committed. If the guilty are state officials, the prison sentence will consist of 2-10 years and permanent dismissal from any posts in which they serve the state.

Those guilty of taking bribes amounting to fewer than 20,000 rials will be temporarily dismissed and will face prison sentences of 6 months to 3 years. In the case of the guilty being a director-general he will be dismissed permanently.

Bribes amounting to 1 million rials carry sentences of 2-5 years imprisonment, fines in cash equal to the value of the goods concerned or the bribe received, permanent dismissal from posts serving the state, and up to 74 lashes.

Bribes amounting to more than 1 million rials will involve sentences of 5-10 years' imprisonment; cash fines to the value of the goods or bribe taken, permanent dismissal from civil service posts, and 74 lashes.

The punishment of those who commit embezzlement up to 50,000 rials will consist of 6 months to 3 years imprisonment, temporary dismissal, and the confiscation of the goods in question by the state. If the embezzlement exceeds 50,000 rials the punishment will be 2-3 years' imprisonment, permanent dismisal from civil service posts, and fines in cash twice the value of the goods embezzled.

New 50 kw Transmitter Begins Operating in Yazd

LD3012234388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The 50 kw transmitter of Yazd center became operational this morning in the presence of Mohamed Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Correction to Khomeyni Guidance to Council

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Khomeyni Issues Guidance to Advisory Council," published in the 3 January Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 45:

Column one, paragraph four, only sentence: ...to approve whatever already has been presented for approval... (rewording for clarity)

Column one, paragraph five, last sentence: ...the meeting has a quorum with seven participants. [albatteh maddeye panj be haman surati keh eslah kardeh budam, jalaseh ba haft nafar rasmiyat peyda mikonad, baqi bashad] ... (providing vernacular)

Pakistan

New Mujahidin Alliance Head Outlines Plans

LD0301194789 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 3, IRNA—The Afghan people's struggle will continue until the total withdrawal of occupying forces, and the downfall of the communist regime ruling Kabul, newly-elected head of the Peshawar based seven-party mujahidin alliance said today.

Sigbatullah Mojadeddi who took over from Burhanuddin Rabbani yesterday, said the Kabul regime is sure to fall after the withdrawal of Soviet forces in view of the fact that 90 percent of Afghanistan's soil has been liberated by the mujahidin.

Lack of enough time coupled with the harsh winter, do not permit the holding of elections before 15 February, the date by which the Soviet forces are scheduled to complete their withdrawal, he said.

"To speed up matters, the future form of Afghan Government would be determined by a council comprising 500 to 600 members, of which 50 percent are mujahidin commanders, 30 percent ulema and the rest people from different walks of life," he said.

The various Afghan parties are yet to reach a consensus despite three days of lengthy talks, however, added Sigbatullah the "Iran-based Afghan parties have been invited to Peshawar to coordinate outlooks" with the alliance based in Pakistan.

"I have had a telephone call with Mr. (Muhammad-Karim) Khalili in Tehran who is to inform me of the coalition's decision tonight," he added.

On the next round of mujahidin talks with Soviet Deputy foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, Mojadeddi said he, along with Khalili (spokesman of the Iran based 8-group coalition), and envoys of some other Afghan parties would probably participate in the talks.

Elsewhere he disclosed that top officials of the Kabul regime have prepared their passports and visas and will leave Afghanistan as soon as the last batch of the Soviet forces is out of the country.

Members of the Kabul regime have reportedly moved their families to places near the Soviet border six weeks before the promised completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Finalize Agenda on Talks With Vorontsov

BK0401032489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The leader of the Afghan mujahidin alliance, Sigbatullah Mojadeddi, told newsmen in Peshawar yesterday that the alliance has unanimously given a final shape to the agenda for talks with Vorontsov [Soviet deputy foreign minister and ambassador to Afghanistan]. He said that they would make a demand for an end to the Soviet-installed government in Kabul and would reject the proposal to include the present ruling Communist Party in any future government [in Afghanistan].

Yuliy Vorontsov had talks with the Iranian president, Ali Khamene'i, on the Afghanistan issue in Tehran yesterday. He apprised the Iranian president of his talks

with the mujahidin leaders based in Iran and the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, which is being completed as scheduled in the next 6 weeks.

After the talks, the Iranian president said his country is concerned with the events in Afghanistan and will support the efforts to enable the Afghan people to decide about the government of their choice independently.

Vorontsov Arrives for Talks on Afghanistan

BK0401094289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The Soviet first deputy foreign minister and ambassador in Kabul, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, arrived in Islamabad today for talks with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on the Afghanistan problem. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he will be having decisive discussions regarding the solution to the Afghan problem.

Mr Vorontsov said matters (?regarding) the future of Afghanistan and establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul are not Soviet Union's business but of the Afghans themselves. They are trying to find out the views and intentions of Afghans.

Replying to a question, he said the Soviet Union is prepared to (?recognize) a broad-based government in Kabul. When asked if the Soviet Union will complete its withdrawal by the 15th of February, Mr Vorontsov said it all depends on the situation in Afghanistan. If there is no fighting, there will be a good situation for the Soviet forces to withdraw.

Casts Doubt on Withdrawal

BK0401093289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 4 (AFP)—Moscow's chief negotiator on Afghanistan cast doubt Wednesday [4 January] on whether the Soviet Union would complete a troop withdrawal by February 15 in line with a U.N.-brokered accord.

Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to Kabul, also told reporters on arriving here for four days of talks on Afghanistan's future, that Moscow was prepared to accept a broadbased government there.

Asked if a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan would be completed by mid-February in line with the Geneva Accord, Mr. Vorontsov said "we shall see, I don't know."

"Commitment to withdraw would depend on developments," he added. Under the U.N.-brokered Geneva Accord signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington, all Soviet troops are to be withdrawn by February 15.

Moscow "is prepared to accept a broadbased government" in Kabul, which would mean a change of government, Mr. Vorontsov said, adding and that his visit here was for "decisive talks" covering all aspects and problems regarding the future of Afghanistan.

The Soviet envoy, who is also a deputy foreign minister, is to have separate talks with Pakistani officials and leaders of the Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin resistance alliance.

Mr. Vorontsov, who arrived here from Teheran where he had talks with Iran-based Afghan resistance leaders, was expected to hold his first round of talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan late Wednesday, official sources said.

He was also expected to deliver messages from Moscow to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"We are working with Pakistan and Iran to see that there was no civil war in Afghanistan," he said.

Mr. Vorontsov is expected to begin talks with leaders of the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance alliance on Thursday, informed sources said.

Alliance leader Sigbatullah Mojadeddi said Tuesday that he would raise with Mr. Vorontsov the formation of a shoora (council) to decide the composition of a new Afghan government.

The resistance chief, who took over the rotating leadership of the seven-party guerrilla alliance Sunday [1 January], said that his agenda for the talks would also include a demand for a complete Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and the removal of the government of President Najibullah.

Mr. Mojadeddi told newsmen in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar that the mujahidin believed in elections but it was not yet the right time and that instead they would form a shoora before mid-February.

The interim shoora would include 40 to 50 percent of guerrilla commanders from inside Afghanistan and members of the resistance alliance would be given equal representation.

Moslem scholars, tribal chieftans and religious leaders were also invited to form the shoora, and leaders of the Afghan Shia resistance based in Iran were also invited for talks, Mr. Mojadeddi said.

But he rejected any coalition with the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in Kabul.

A source in Kabul close to Mr. Najibullah has said that the PDPA could be dissolved and replaced by a "liberal, democratic and nationalist" party of social democratic ideas.

However, hardliners within the PDPA are strongly opposed to the formation of this new "liberal party," the source added.

The Afghan resistance alliance would accept every decision of the shoora, Mr. Mojadeddi said, even if it decided that former King Zahir Shah should return.

Asked about his recent meeting in Rome with the former Afghan monarch, Mr. Vorontsov said here Wednesday that "King Zahir Shah is an important figure for some of the Afghans, including some mujahidin and refugees, so we wanted to have his views." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Vorontsov also urged the mujahidin to change their minds and accept an offer of a ceasefire in Afghanistan.

"If they are not going to observe ceasefire, they will be killing Afghans because the Soviets are withdrawing."

Withdrawal Linked to Situation

OW0401104389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 4 KYODO—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov Wednesday said that withdrawal of Soviet forces by February 15 depended on the situation in Afghanistan.

Vorontsov was talking to reporters on arrival at Islamabad Airport after talks with Iran-based guerrilla groups in Tehran. He is expected to meet representatives of Pakistan-based guerrilla groups Friday who are reported to have already finalised a ten-point agenda for talks with him on Tuesday. Vorontsov, also ambassador to Afghanistan, described his talks with Pakistan Government officials Wednesday and Thursday as decisive for a solution to the Afghanistan problem and said his meeting with the Afghan mujahidin would depend on their willingness to meet him.

"I will come back to meet them, if they do not meet me this time," he said. Vorontsov said the Soviets were leaving Afghanistan and want Afghanistan to remain peaceful after withdrawal. But work must be done towards it and it will not come automatically, he said.

The Soviet diplomat was asked if the Soviet Union would stick to the February 15 deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. It will depend on the situation in Afghanistan, he replied.

Asked for clarification, Vorontsov said if the ceasefire that came into effect on January 1 holds and if there is no further fighting, it would be a good time for the Soviets to withdraw. "We are going to withdraw our forces early enough," he said.

Vorontsov said the purpose of his visits to Tehran was to discuss all matters related to Afghanistan with Iran-based resistance, including the formation of a new regime in Afghanistan.

The Soviet special envoy to Afghanistan regretted the negative response of the Pakistan-based resistance to the Soviet-Afghan offer of a ceasefire from January 1 because continuing the fighting now would mean "killing their own citizens." He hoped that the Afghan mujahidin would change their minds over the ceasefire offer.

Vorontsov said those predicting the fall of the government under President Najibullah after Soviet withdrawal were making a big mistake and indulging in wishful thinking.

"The Najibullah regime will undoubtedly survive," he said, but added that the regime in Kabul was willing to participate in the formation of any broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Asked if Afghanistan might be plunged into civil war after the Soviet withdrawal, Vorontsov said he hoped this would not happen and said the Soviets would like to work with friends in Pakistan and Iran to avoid the possibility.

Pullout 'Appears To Be Ready'

BK0401112989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] (?Another) Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan appears to be ready by the 15th of this month. APP quotes diplomatic sources as saying that the Soviet Union, after 2 months of suspension, seems to be taking steps to carry out its original agreement to pull all its forces from Afghanistan by the 15th of next month. This date was set in the United Nations-mediated accord signed in Geneva last April.

Sri Lanka

President Premadasa Names Interim Cabinet

BK0401120089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1118 GMT 4 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 4 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa today named his interim cabinet, re-assigned portfolios and abolished the Ministry of National Security.

The president had earlier accepted the resignations of seven members of the Cabinet who were unsuccessful in their electorates at the recent presidential election and two others who had also tendered their resignations.

The country's new Information Minister Festus Perera who also holds the portfolio of fisheries at a news briefing in Colombo this afternoon read out a statement made by President Premadasa at the first cabinet meeting after his assumption of office, held this morning.

The president announced in his statement that he has decided to take charge of the Ministries of Local Government, Housing and Construction, Highways, Finance and Planning, Plan Implementation and Plantation Industries.

President Premadasa said he will also be assuming the Ministries of Defence, State Plantations, Janatha Estate Developments, Provincial Councils and Manpower Mobilization and Civil Security which were held by President Jayewardene.

The Ministry of Civil Security will be abolished.

President Premadasa in his statement said he had found that the only subject presently assigned to the Ministry of National Security is the administration of the country's ports.

In view of this he was reassigning the subject to the Ministry of Trade and Shipping and as such the Ministry of National Security will not be necessary.

Nine ministers have been allocated the portfolios earlier held by the ministers who have resigned.

Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed has been allocated the portfolio of higher education, Home Minister K.W. Devanayagam has also been assigned public administration, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake is also minister of agricultural development and research, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Sports Vincent Perera is also minister of posts and telecommunication, Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali has also been appointed minister of food.

Minister of Fisheries Festus Perera has also been placed in charge of information, Minister of Education and Youth Affairs Ranil Wickremasinghe is also the minister of justice, Minister of Labour Joseph Michael Perera has also been assigned the portfolio of social services and Minister of Textile Industries T. Wijepala Mendis is also minister of state.

The president has further said in his statement issued today that his election pledge of poverty alleviation will be a subject assigned to the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Mr. Premadasa states that there is no necessity to have project ministers, district ministers and deputy ministers till the general election.

Accordingly, he had asked them to resign.

President Premadasa also states that the Minister of Information Festus Perera will be the cabinet spokesman at press briefings following cabinet meetings.

These interim arrangements will be operative until the conclusion of the general election (due to be held on February 15).

Delhi: 3 Tamil Groups To Field Common Candidates
BK0301031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] and three other Tamil groups are reported to have agreed to field common candidates in the North-eastern Province for next month's parliamentary elections. The TULF leader, Mr Amirthalingam said in Colombo that the groups would be contesting under the TULF's name because there is no time to register a new party or front. The other groups in the front are the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, EPRLF; the Eelam National Democratic Front, ENDF; and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, TELO.

Meanwhile, the general secretary of EPRLF, Mr K. Padmanabha, has said that his party is opposed to the referendum for the merger of Eastern and Northern Provinces. He told the AIR correspondent, Bhuva Raghavan, in Trincomalee that such a referendum will only create disunity among various ethnic groups in the province.